

THE ATHENÆUM

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LECTURES ON ENGLISH LAW.—Professor LUTLOCK will commence a COURSE of LECTURES on the RIGHTS of PERSONS, in regard to Personal Property, on FRIDAY Evening, the 1st of November, at 8 o'clock, and will continue it every succeeding Tuesday and Friday, at the same time. The Introductory Lecture, to which all gentlemen presenting their cards will be admitted, will be delivered on Friday Evening, the 1st of November, October 22, 1839. J. LONSDALE, B.D. Principal.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.—MATHEMATICS.—AN EXTRA COURSE will be given by Professor DE MOIRAN, for Students who are well acquainted with all the branches taught in the ordinary Classes, Junior and Senior. Lectures on Mondays and Thursdays, from 10 to 11 A.M.—First Lecture, Monday, October 28. J. HEWITT KEY, Dean of the Faculty of Arts. CHAS. C. ATKINSON, Secretary to the Council. October 24, 1839.

CHEMISTRY MATRICULATION COURSE.—ON FRIDAY, November 1, at 3 o'clock P.M. Professor GRAHAM will commence a COURSE of 21 LECTURES, to prepare Students for the Matriculation Examination in Chemistry at the University of London. The Course to be continued on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, at 3 o'clock.—Fee, 2s. T. HEWITT KEY, Dean of the Faculty of Arts. CHAS. C. ATKINSON, Secretary to the Council. University College, 1st October, 1839.

LECTURES ON LAW AND JURISPRUDENCE.—During the ensuing Session, Courses of Lectures, commencing on the 4th of November, will be delivered as follows:—By PROFESSOR CAREY, A.M. From 7 to 8 P.M., twice a week. LAW OF PROPERTY. About 20 Lectures; Tuesdays and Fridays. Fee, 3s. COMMON LAW.—On the Administration of the. About 12 Lectures, on Wednesdays, from 7 to 8 P.M. Fee for both the Courses, 4s.

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A Scholarship of 50l. a year for 3 years, is proposed by the Senate, under certain conditions, for the Candidate who, at the Examination for Honours, shall distinguish himself the most in Jurisprudence. By the Act 1 Victoria, cap. 56, the facilities enjoyed by graduates of the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, and Dublin for admission as Attorneys and Solicitors, are extended to graduates of the University of London. Further information may be obtained at the Office of the College.

HENRY MALDEN, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Laws. CHAS. C. ATKINSON, Secretary to the Council. University College, 9th October, 1839.

BIRMINGHAM MECHANICS' INSTITUTION. The Committee of the above Institution respectfully announce that they are making preparations for a temporary Extensive and Splendid Exhibition of Unique and Curious Objects illustrative of the Manufactures, Experimental Philosophy, and Natural History. Practical Science.

The Managers have already received encouragement beyond their most sanguine expectations; but as the Exhibition cannot be so extensive and varied, they are desirous of obtaining any interesting object, however small, either as a loan or a gift. The former will be retained in the Exhibition, and all expenses of carriage or removal cheerfully paid.

Parties willing to exhibit, are respectfully requested to forward their specimens with as little delay as possible. Any article which is not to be sold, may be sold, free of expense, but cannot be removed till the close of the Exhibition. Experiments will be performed at stated times, and workmen are engaged to presenting the most improved branches of Art. Any communications addressed to the Secretaries will receive immediate attention. HENRY HOPKINS, } Hon. Secretaries. JOHN DEWSBURY, }

Committee Room, Newhall-street, Oct. 23, 1839.

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COLLECTION OF BOOKS.

By Mr. SOUTHGATE, at his Rooms, No. 22, Fleet-street, on MONDAY, October 26, and three following days; comprising a VERY EXTENSIVE COLLECTION of MODERN NOVELS and ROMANCES, including the Brighton Royal Library, the property of Mr. James Taylor, declining the branch of the Business, among which will be found the most Popular and the most valuable Works, including Irving, Goldwin, Sir Walter Scott, Mrs. Cooper, Walter Scott, Miss Martineau, Ladies Bury, Dacre, Morley, &c., together with Modern Periodicals, and Miscellaneous Books in various departments of Literature. Also, several Reams of Writing and other Papers, &c.

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No. CXXVIII, is published THIS DAY.

- Contents.
I. On Life Assurance.
II. Travels in North America.
III. Life of Bishop Butler.
IV. On Mendicancy.
V. Life and Character of Eschylus.
VI. Petrarch, Boccaccio, and Dante.
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LONDON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1839.

REVIEWS

Jack Sheppard: a Romance. By W. Harrison Ainsworth, Esq.; with Illustrations, by George Cruikshank. 3 vols. Bentley.

Times of any significance have ever been attended by their appropriate signs, by which, they who would observe might have foreseen the course of coming events. So few, however, have taken the trouble to peruse the future in the present, that the strongest tokens have failed to arouse contemporary caution; and it is only when philosophy has been enlightened by events, that the handwriting on the wall has become distinctly legible. Of these signs the literature of the day is certainly not among the least characteristic. There is scarcely a child, who cannot now tell the meaning and import of the literature of the eighteenth century, nor a journalist who does not see the entire French revolution summed up and foreshadowed in Beaumarchais' *Figaro*;—making only, perhaps, the small mistake, of confounding the effect with the cause. Yet, previously to the explosion, the Daniels were few who could expound what has since become so universally intelligible; and none of them could obtain a hearing, even among the parties most interested in averting the calamity.

That the current literature of England in the present day, albeit less marked by salient productions, is equally an exponent of the future march of thought and action of the nation, we have not the least doubt; and should an ambassador from some far distant country arrive on our shores for the purpose of overreaching us in a convention, we know not where he could find a better clue to the infirmities of the national character, than in the columns of our book advertisements. But it is more especially in works of mere amusement, that we should be inclined to look for the clearest demonstrations: and whether that amusement be sought in fanatical theology, or fashionable novels; in parliamentary sketches, or annals of Newgate; in the pencillings of a Brougham, or an Ainsworth; we habitually look to such works as indications of what the public are doing and thinking, rather than as simple phenomena possessing an intrinsic value of their own. This relation between authors and the public is probably universal, and of all times and countries; but it never was so immediate as in the present age, in which writers take their tone from their readers, instead of giving it; and in which more pains are taken to write down to the mediocrity of the purchasing multitude, than heretofore were bestowed in endeavouring to get the start of the age. Judging by this criterion, the result is not a little startling; and a sudden and unprecedented fall of the barometer, would not give us more serious apprehension of a coming hurricane, than the success of certain works of the lowest intellectual calibre have excited, as prognostics of political and social storms, though the gathering clouds may yet be below the horizon, and no gust of wind or eddying straw may announce their approaching advent. Putting aside a few works on positive science, and, occasionally, the journal of some enterprising traveller, how few are the tokens of any real progress of mind! how many the signs of its retrogradation! What gives additional import to this literary nullity is, the consciousness that it represents only the intelligence of the paying public,—the knowledge that while the classes most at their ease are occupied with the lowest and most trivial thoughts, the classes below them, ignorant or careless of all book learning,

and educated by the force of circumstances, far more stimulating than that of words, are brooding over the elementary principles of social existence, and are heaving with all the passions incident to the first crude conceptions of the most stirring truths.

It is this relation of the author to his public, which induces us to extend our notice of Mr. Ainsworth's novel beyond the simple announcement of its appearance under a new form. It is seldom that we treat our readers with much comment on these republications, or on works which appear originally in the magazines; and, if we depart from our rule in this instance, it is because (as on a recent occasion) the matter has a far larger concernment, than belongs to ordinary criticism. If we consider Mr. Ainsworth in the usual light of a mere caterer for the public appetite, and as devoting his talents to the production of a popular work either at his own or his publisher's suggestion, we must freely admit his book to be on a level with the usual specimens of the class, and at least as good as the occasion required. It is not his fault that he has fallen upon evil days, and that, like other tradesmen, he must subordinate his own tastes to those of his customers. If, therefore, in the remarks which we are about to make, we appear to bear hard on the publication in question, we do not intend thereby to dispute the author's power of producing better things, or even to reproach him too severely with his submission to the necessity of pandering to the prevalent corruption of intellect,—a reproach by the bye, to which we all, in our desire to be read, render ourselves in some degree liable.

Jack Sheppard, then, is a bad book, and what is worse, it is of a class of bad books, got up for a bad public; and it is on this last account that we select it for observation, as a specimen of one of those literary peculiarities, which we consider to be signs of the times. If we had the means of addressing our readers with the volumes in their hands, the shortest and perhaps the best means of conveying our estimate of their contents, would be by a reference to the engraved illustrations,—“look upon this picture and on this.” In these graphic representations are embodied all the inherent coarseness and vulgarity of the subject; and all the horrible and (it is not too strong to say) unnatural excitement, which a public, too prudish to relish humour, and too *blasé* to endure true pathos, requires to keep alive attention and to awaken a sensation. The engravings are, in fact, an epitome of the letterpress, and they seem to bear the same proportion to the entire work, that Mr. Stanfield's beautiful scenery does to a picturesque melodrama; leaving it doubtful whether the plates were etched for the book, or the book written to illustrate the plates. Perhaps it were a better comparison to say, that the plates perform the same part in these volumes, that “the real gig” of Thurtell did on the Surrey stage; and that the authors in both cases have trusted to the *oculus fidelibus*, for producing that “elevation and surprise,” which their pens could not elicit from such a theme. These faithful images of “what you shall see,” beaming from the windows of booksellers' shops, like the baked meats and sausages depicted on the outsides of cookshops in Italy, are appeals *ad hominem*, not to be resisted; and if they are signs of “that within which passeth show,” are not less so, of the tastes and appetites of those whose custom they solicit. As we cannot, however, presume on the immediate presence of these able expositors, we must remind our readers, that Jack Sheppard was a “celebrated” house and prison breaker of the last century, and that the history of his life is the history of the vulgar and disgusting atrocities

incidental to his “gentle craft.” To relieve the tedium of an endless repetition of adventures, where each reflects its brother, and to raise the work above the level of dry extract from the *Newgate Calendar*, and the newspapers of the day, the hero is involved in a melo-dramatic story of motiveless crime, and impossible folly, connected with personages of high degree; and an attempt is made to invest Sheppard with good qualities, which are incompatible with his character and position. But the sacrifice of probability and of moral propriety is vain. We never escape from the staple: crime is the one source of every interesting situation; and, if we cannot exactly say, that horse-pistols are the sources of horse-laughs, we may safely assert, that the only proofs the *dramatis personæ* exhibit of possessing brains, is the constant liability under which they live and move and have their being, of having them knocked or blown out. In the elaboration of a work of this description, little is required beyond mere technical authorship. The invention and the excitement are furnished to the author's hand. The characters, actions, thoughts, and expressions, dictated beforehand, are all of the lowest and the most monotonous kind. It is not man, it is not nature that are wanted; but a corrupted, stunted, and deformed degradation of both; not an universality, but a special and an exceptional combination. To throw away on such a composition either feeling or humour, would be not merely a waste of time, but a disappointment to the reader. Such things would not merely be superfluous, but out of place. In one word, it would substitute a thought for an image; and then the whole scaffolding of effect would be dashed to the earth, and destroyed. Yet this is “the sport for ladies,”—and for gentlemen too, offered to and accepted by “the reading public” of the nineteenth century!

The real hero of the volume before us is not Jack Sheppard, but Jonathan Wild; and this name will naturally suggest a comparison between the present work and the delightful burlesque of Fielding. The suggestion is fortunate, for in the difference between the productions thus brought into contact, lies the entire matter at issue between ourselves and the admirers of the new school. It has been observed, by a critic on the writings of Mr. Dickens, that their popularity was a natural and inevitable reaction of the public mind upon the fashion of the so-called silver-fork school; that the public, satiated with vivid and languid insipidity, turned with a morbid appetite in search of strong excitement, to the coarse manners and vulgar crimes of low life. We, however, are more inclined to refer these literary phenomena to a common circumstance, and to attribute the prevailing taste to an incapacity for sympathizing with the elevated and the ennobling, produced by causes to which we shall presently advert.

In thus introducing Mr. Dickens's name, we are far from classing him with his imitators, or ranging his works with the *Factory Boys* and the *Jack Sheppards*,—in external appearance so similar. If Boz has depicted scenes of hardened vice, and displayed the peculiar phasis of degradation which poverty impresses on the human character under the combinations of a defective civilization, he is guided in his career by a high moral object; and in tracing what is most loathsome and repulsive, he contrives to enlist the best feelings of our nature in his cause, and to engage his readers in the consideration of what lies below the surface. In this respect he approaches his great predecessors, Fielding and Gay; for, though he proceeds by a different path, he arrives at the same end; and, instead of sully the mind of an intelligent reader, he leaves him wiser and better for the perusal of

his tale. But this is precisely the excellence which we suspect the readers of *Boz* most frequently overlook; and we are certain that it is far less the under-current of philosophy which has sold his book, than the strong flavour of the medium, in which he has disguised the bitterness of its taste.

In looking back on the Newgate scenes of Fielding and of Gay (and we are certain that our readers will thank us for recalling them to their recollection), the first thing that recurs to memory is the noble purpose to which they are directed, the boldness with which the writers have stripped society of its disguises, and exhibited the shallowness of those conventionalities which varnish the vices of fashionable life, the falsehood of its pretences, the hypocrisy of its assumptions of decency and propriety. It is not of Macheath and of Wild that we think as we read, but of the political and social cheats who figure in the front ranks of that great masquerade "the world." On this point Fielding has thoroughly explained himself, and the remark applies as strictly to the writings of Gay as to his own:—"Without considering Newgate," he says, "as no other than human nature with its mask off, which some very shameless writers have done, I think we may be excused for suspecting that the splendid palaces of the great are often no other than Newgate with the mask on; nor do I know anything which can raise an honest man's indignation higher than that the same morals should be in one place attended with all imaginable misery and infamy, and in the other with the highest luxury and honour; . . . and yet I am afraid that all these ingredients [lust, avarice, rapine, &c.], glossed over with wealth and a title, have been treated with the highest respect and veneration in the one, while one or two of them have been condemned to the gallows in the other." Here we have a thesis laid down for illustration, embracing the widest and the noblest field of inquiry, a thesis that calls forth the highest faculties of our nature to consider, and which constantly raises us above the filth and depravity of the images presented to engage the imagination with the profound moralities they embody,—insomuch that the more coarse, absurd, or offensive the outward circumstance, the greater is the quantity of satiric and of moral inference to be drawn from it. Perhaps in the whole *Beggars' Opera* there is no scene more variously and profoundly suggestive than that whose offences against prudery have in our times banished it from representation.

But if the intention and scope of these works are ennobling, and imply the presence of master minds, not less so are the wit and humour with which the pervading idea is worked out in the execution. The *Beggars' Opera* is a running fire of sarcasm and epigram from beginning to end, fixing the attention far less on what is actually set down than on what is suggested and implied. The history, too, of Jonathan Wild, in its continued irony, keeps the minds of its best educated readers on the stretch by the *finesse* of its remarks on human nature, and by the refined drollery of their application to the circumstances. Writings of this class, it is true, will in all ages be above the general level of the public; too superior for vulgar use, and too exalted for general taste; yet their tendency is to raise the public in the moral and intellectual scale, and the popularity they have enjoyed proves that their power bore some proportion to their design.

For the production of works of this kind, there must exist among the public not only a manly and a sound tone of moral feeling, which fears not to hear spoken the thoughts that are in the general mind,—a healthfulness of conscience that can afford to joke, where joking is but a

better way of speaking home truths,—but there must be, also, a prevalent habit of dealing with the higher order of moral ideas, an acquaintance with enlarged views of human nature and of society. Without a certain licence of expression, the ugliness and distortion of vice cannot be so graphically rendered as to afford the basis of a ludicrous contrast between the letter of the narrative and the spirit of the irony of which it is the medium: without a prompt and exercised intelligence in the reader, without a familiarity with the noble and the beautiful, the irony is lost, the spirit is overlooked, the *Beggars' Opera* becomes a mere Tom and Jerry, and Jonathan Wild another Jack Sheppard.

To explain the change which has come over the spirit of our age, rendering the appearance of such works a literary miracle, would require a much larger space than we can now dedicate to the subject. The causes of the peculiar literature of any age are the conditions of its civilization. In this lies the whole truth; but that truth is so generalized in the very complex term "civilization," that the definition might be mistaken for a mystification. It is by an enumeration of the leading particulars of that term, and by distinguishing in what respects the civilization of to-day differs from that of other days, that we can alone arrive at a lucid and a pregnant meaning. This is an analysis well worthy the consideration of all that are capable of attempting it; and it is best, perhaps, that each man should attempt it honestly and conscientiously for himself. To approach the causes, there must pre-exist a clear idea of the effects. Now we take it that the prevalent characteristics of the civilization of our day are insensibility to whatever transcends a shrewd and cunning view of life,—a formal, conventional, and special tone of mind,—a timidity that is contented with appearances, and dares not trust itself to look beyond them,—a distrust of whatever rises in thought or action above the general morality,—a dislike of whatever intellectually steps beyond prescribed opinion. The society of modern England seems to be governed by two leading feelings, the desire for wealth as the instrument of this world's pleasures, and a fretful, gloomy, and desponding uneasiness about the path to happiness in the next; both of them at war with all real goodness as they are with enjoyment, and both perhaps incompatible with a healthful tone of national literature.

From these effects we are led at once to the more leading causes which produce them: an increased artificiality of social life, an estrangement from nature, and a consequent merging of all individualities in one common character, cold, monotonous, superficial, polished (it may be), but hard and hollow. The difficulties which beset the struggle for existence, the aggregation of the population into large towns, the universal pre-occupation of mind on the routine habits of a sordid industry, the disciplining of man to the minute restraints of complicated laws, are among the principal facts which contribute to this result. Their bearings are too involved and too varied for detail. The general strain on society, while it chills the affections, confines the intellect within a narrow circle of ideas, and directs even science itself into the most positive channels. While the judgment is required to be exercised on the minutest particulars of a utility, personal, individual and exceptional, while the daily and constant thoughts of the people turn on questions of money and of money's worth, the imagination is at once divested of the objects of its enjoyment, and thrown into abeyance by the want of leisure for its exercise. Again, the prevalence of uneasy sensations, the constant anxieties, the absence of all pleasures, and more especially of domestic pleasures, arising out of difficulties and uncertain-

ties respecting the means of existence, sour the temper, and deprave the heart; throwing men either upon a course of vicious and brutal indulgences, or the excitements of fanaticism, which tend, not towards love and humility, but strife, hatred and self-glorification. How far the spread of an ascetic, disputatious, and delirious spirit of devotion has contributed to lower the tone of literature, by narrowing the affections and by obliterating the sense of pathos and of humour, we need not pause to declare: the facts daily recorded in our newspapers speak for themselves, and whoever runs may read. In a circle of causes like this, where all things act and re-act on each other, it is difficult to assign a distinct efficacy to each. Authors, as members of society, partake of its characteristics and reflect them. They not only cease to be imaginative, because the public makes no demand for the result, but because the sources of imagination are dried up in themselves as in other men by the circumstances of society. The power of producing without capital, peculiar to authorship, has, in the overcrowded state of the markets for all other modes of industry, made literature a trade. The object of all trade is to produce much and fast; while the demand for books having descended to the masses, has rendered an inferior literature not merely tolerable, but acceptable. Among the secondary causes may perhaps also be placed the sudden abstraction of that great and universal stimulus which the French revolution afforded to genius in all its departments. Under that stimulation a miraculous harvest of intellect was produced; and a corresponding poverty of the exhausted soil may be but a natural consequence. Without, however, proceeding further in the investigation, we are entitled to infer that the rapid decay of literature is another evidence of the hasty and irregular development of the society which preceded it; it is a proof that something has gone widely wrong in that sudden expansion of wealth and population which has marked our times; and like the silver age of Roman literature, it will be a token of an approaching decline and fall of all our national institutions, unless some recuperative energy remains behind, to be exerted in remodelling society at large, and replacing all its classes in their proper position.

But we have lost sight of our author. Widely as Jack Sheppard has been disseminated, there may be some of our readers who may wish for a taste of his quality; and we must indulge them with an extract. We select a short passage, which, while it exhibits the general quality of the whole work, possesses also that peculiar merit, in the eyes of the public, a personal application. There is a craving abroad for personalities, and it must be indulged, we imagine, without consideration of anachronisms.

"Your cracked skull is by no means a pleasing spectacle. How came you by the hurt, eh?" "How did I come by it?—that's a nate question. Why, honestly enough. It was lent me by a countryman o' mine; but I paid him back in his own coin—ha! ha!" "A countryman of yours, Terry?" "Ay, and a noble one, too, Quilt—more's the pity! You've heard of the Marquis of Slaughterford, belike?" "Of course; who has not? He is the leader of the Mohocks, the general of the Scourers, the prince of rakes, the friend of the surgeons and glaziers, the terror of your tribe, and the idol of the girls!" "That's him to a hair!" cried Terence, rapturously. "Och! he's a broth of a boy!" "Why I thought he'd broken your head, Terry?" "Phoo! that's nothing! A piece of plaster'll set all to rights; and Terry O'Flaherty's not the boy to care for the stroke of a supple-jack. Besides, didn't I tell you that I giv' him as good as he brought—better! I jist touched him with my 'Evenin' Star,' as I call this shillelah," said the watchman, flourishing an immense bludgeon, the knob of which appeared to be loaded with lead, "and, by Saint Patrick! down he cum'd

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like a bullock.—'Zounds!' exclaimed Quilt, 'did you kill him?'—'Not quite,' replied Terence, laughing; 'but I brought him to his senses.'—'By depriving him of 'em, eh? But I'm sorry you hurt his lordship, Terry. Young noblemen ought to be indulged in their frolics. If they do, now and then, run away with a knocker, paint a sign, beat the watch, or huff a magistrate, they pay for their pastime, and that's sufficient. What more could any reasonable man—especially a watchman—desire? Besides, the Marquis is a devilish fine fellow, and a particular friend of mine. There's not his peer among the peerage.'—'Och? if he's a friend o' yours, my dear joy, there's no more to be said; and right sorry am I, I struck him. But, blood-an'-ouns! man, if ould Nick himself were to hit me a blow, I'd be afther givin' him another.'—'Well, well—wait a while,' returned Quilt; 'his lordship won't forget you. He's as generous as he's frolicsome.' As he spoke, the door of the roundhouse was opened, and a stout man, with a lantern in his hand, presented himself at the threshold. 'There's Sharples,' cried Quilt.—'Whist!' exclaimed Terence; 'he elevates his glim. By Jassus! he's about to spake to us.'—'Gemmen o' the votch!' cried Sharples, as loudly as a wheezy cough would permit him, 'my noble pris'ner—ough! ough!—the Markis o' Slaughterford.' Further speech was cut short by a volley of execrations from the angry guardians of the night. 'No Mohocks! No Scourers!' cried the mob.—'Hear! hear!' vociferated Quilt.—'His lordship desires me to say—ough! ough!—Fresh groans and hisses. 'You'n you hear me?—ough! ough!' demanded Sharples, after a pause.—'By all means,' rejoined Quilt.—'Raise your vice, and lave off coughin',' added Terence.—'The long and the short o' the matter's this then,' returned Sharples with dignity, 'the Markis begs your acceptance o' ten guineas to drink his health.' The hooting was instantaneously changed to cheers. 'And his lordship furthermore requests me to state,' proceeded Sharples, in a hoarse tone, 'that he'll be responsible for the doctors' bills of all such gemmen as have received broken pates, or been otherwise damaged in the fray—ough! ough!—'Hurrah!' shouted the mob. 'We're all damaged—we've all got broken pates,' cried a dozen voices.—'Ay, good luck to him! so we have,' rejoined Terence; 'but we've no objection to take out the dochter's bill in drink.'—'None whatever,' replied the mob.—'Your answer, gemmen?' demanded Sharples.—'Long life to the Markis, and we accept his honourable proposal,' responded the mob.—'Long life to the Marquis!' reiterated Terence; 'he's an honour to ould Ireland!—Didn't I tell you how it would be?' remarked Quilt.—'Troth, and so did you,' returned the watchman; 'but I couldn't believe it. In futur', I'll keep the 'Evenin' Star' for his lordship's enemies.'"

Such is the "elegant and polite literature" which leads authors on their way to fortune and to fame in this the middle of the nineteenth century.

Letters on Palestine and Egypt; written during Two Years' Residence. By the Rev. J. D. Paxton, A.M. Lexington, K.y., Skillman. London, Wiley & Putnam.

We are getting fast into the Age of Travel. The whole world will soon be in motion. Here is another book about the Holy Land,—published not only on the other side the Atlantic, but far beyond the Alleghany Mountains. Mr. Paxton in every other page gives an account of the wandering Franks he falls in with. At Beyroot, his head-quarters, he was quite at home with American families. At Jaffa, when he reached that place by water, the American squadron had left but the day previous, and the commodore and a party of his officers had just returned from a trip to Jerusalem, flying over the ground on horse-back to and fro, at a rate which quite astonished the natives. On his second visit to the Holy City, the author finds there one of the sons of the French king, who was received with great parade by the Catholics and others. Count Berthian crosses his path in another direction. Mr. Wil-

son, a Scotch gentleman, tells him all about Petra: Lord Lindsay falls in with him at Beyroot. The Rev. Mr. Nicholayson, from London, entertains him in another place; and then "Prof. Robinson and Messrs. Smith and Adger had arrived some days before from Egypt, via Suez and Sinai." These are incidental illustrations of the remark we began with.

Mr. Paxton appears—though he says little about it—to have been in some way connected with the American mission in Palestine; and his travels may be taken as another creditable specimen of what may be done by men, in such situations, who know how to avail themselves of their opportunities. The little book, however, is inferior to some of its class. The author is not one of your born travellers; he is naturally indolent, and he makes a labour of everything, and frequently turns aside or stops short just where others of more zeal and enterprise would have screwed their courage to the sticking-place; thus, of a romantic old monastery among the mountains near Beyroot, he says, "I felt a wish to visit it, but the labour would have been considerable!" Of the city itself, where he stayed so long, he observes, "I have been unable to ascertain the population of the town and suburbs;" and in the same page,—"I have not been able to ascertain the number of troops (the Pacha's) with certainty; there must be thousands,—possibly, from 3,000 to 5,000." But though Mr. Paxton might have done better, he does well sometimes. Beyroot is one of the chief commercial ports on the coast of Syria, and the great Protestant missionary station. It is situated, says Mr. Paxton, on a "half-moon-like kind" of bay, where a river, of its own name, runs in from the mountains which are not far in the rear:—

"A small part of the town lying near the water, appears pretty closely built; but much of the town, or very many houses, stand out over the gentle rise of the hill, with gardens connected with them. Indeed, the whole face of the plain and ridge, on which the town stands, is quite covered with trees. The trees are not large, being many of them mulberry, almond, the pride of China, (I think it is called,) a few olive, and apricot, &c. I have seen no place in the East that struck me more pleasantly than Beyroot. The mountains behind it rise in succession. They have a good many trees on them, but are not entirely covered. They appear to be rather confined to spots, as if planted by man, and cultivated for special purposes."

Again:—

"To the west and south-west, at a quarter of a mile from the town, commences what may be called the sands, which gave me a better idea of the sands of the desert, than anything I have before seen. The whole surface is a bed of fine sand. It includes the highest part of the promontory, and much, if not all the south-west side of it. There is, at places, occasionally, a weed or bush, but much of the surface is very fine sand, which is moved more or less by the wind; and as the wind blows much from the south, the sand has the appearance of approaching nearer and nearer the town—at the place where it stops, and the gardens begin, the sands are a good deal higher than the gardens: ten, fifteen, or twenty feet; and the bank advances, owing to the sand that is carried forward by the wind, and rolls down towards the gardens. Some houses and fields have been covered, and others are in danger, and must soon be overwhelmed with it. * *

"I have met with several things which struck me with some force, as illustrating Scripture. The roofs of the houses are flat, and a way is made to ascend to the top, which is a most pleasant place for a walk in the cool of the evening. 'Samuel called Saul to the top of the house.'—1 Sam. ix. 2, 6. A number of the houses have a kind of a tent on the top, made of reeds, &c., in which they sit, and I believe sleep. 'They spread Abolom a tent on the top of the house.'—2 Sam. xvi. 22. There is usually a small railing, or elevation, round the edge, to prevent any

from falling over; and the law of Moses required them to make a battlement for this purpose.—Deut. xxii. 8. While some have tents on the top of the house, others have them out under the trees; and the fig tree and the vine, having large shady leaves, are very favourable for this. Thus they sit 'under their vine and fig tree.' And where they do not use tents, they are very fond of sitting out under the trees. They usually take out a straw mat, or small carpet, which they spread down; sometimes on this they lay their beds and sit on them."

These references and illustrations of Scripture, though not often either profound or original, are always interesting. Thus, again, he observes, in reference to the passage in Luke,—"Full measure shall men give into your bosom."

"The usual dress here is a long robe, not much unlike a woman's gown. It is fastened about the waist with a girdle. This is a long, large piece, often as large, and even much larger than a sheet, but of a fine texture; usually of the shawl kind. They wrap this round them four or five times, forming a band from four inches to a foot wide, as the taste of each may be,—then give such a fastening to the end as each may choose. It is odd, and to us laughable to see them putting them on. I have seen them fasten the end of their long girdle to a door, post, or table,—adjust its folds—regulate its width—put one end to their body, and turn round and round until they have wrapped it all to their liking. Yea, I have seen them do it on the road. * * The part of the dress above the girdle having an opening, is used for stowing away all sorts of things; handkerchiefs, when they have any; bread, fruit, &c., nothing comes amiss; they put it into the bosom. As the receptacle goes all round the body, it is equal to three or four of those great pockets our great-grandmothers used to wear."

Wandering about Beyroot, he says,—

"There are few, if any, springs here, as we would call them—but wells; at least in all my walks, I have not seen any. There is a low place, a little out of the city gate, where there are three or four wells. They are walled up, with a large flat area over them, in the middle of which is a hole, large enough to let down a bucket. There is no pump or windlass, nor even a well-sweep; but a rope. The vessel used almost constantly for bringing water, is a large jug with two handles, and a small mouth. It may hold from two to four gallons. They tie the rope to the neck or to the handles, and let it down. It fills, and they draw it up. In passing these wells, especially in the evening or morning, you find a crowd of people drawing water. Some have mules and donkeys on which they carry it—usually having four of these water-pots, two swung in a wooden frame on each side of the animal. The others carry the jar on their shoulders, or rather on the back, held over the shoulder; but one hand is raised to support it. You see no one carrying anything in his arms, as is the custom with us, but upon the head or shoulder when not too large, otherwise upon the back—even children are carried in this way—it is amusing to see the little things riding upon their parents' shoulders. There is no vessel attached to these wells; and thus we see the force of the saying of the woman: 'thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep'; and thus Rebecca came 'out with her pitcher upon her shoulder.' A large proportion of those whom we saw drawing water were females."

On his route to Damascus he found himself on the borders of a plain, used for a threshing-floor, after the ancient fashion:—

"It was a large space of several acres, and there may have been from a dozen to twenty floors, without any partition between them. On some of them people were employed in threshing grain, others separating the straw and chaff from the wheat; on others lay great piles of grain, some clean and others mixed with the chaff and straw. They separate the wheat by throwing it up and letting the wind blow the chaff away. Of course they must wait for a wind. I saw no instrument to make wind. The threshing instrument is a board, about three feet in width and six or eight feet in length; at the fore end it is turned up, a little like a sleigh. The board is about three inches in thickness. On the under side many holes are cut in it, from an inch and a half to two inches, and in these are fastened pieces of stone, flint or iron; these

project nearly an inch from the face of the board and serve as teeth, to tear the heads of the grain in pieces. Oxen are fastened to the front of these boards, and driven round the floor, drawing this instrument after them. The driver of the oxen usually sits or stands on the instrument. This is the common threshing-machine in these countries. I see it everywhere—and I have seen no other. It would seem that it is the same instrument that was used in the days of the prophet, who speaks of a 'new threshing instrument having teeth.' The oxen are usually without muzzles, and often, as they pass round, take up a few straws and feed on them. 'Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn.' I do not recollect ever seeing the horse used on the floor—the oxen very often."

Coal has been lately found near Beyroot. Mr. Paxton informs us,—

"The chief mine that is worked lies near a village called Cornell, about three or four hours' ride from Brumannah, and up near the main ridge of the mountain. Our first object was to visit those mines which lay south-east of Brumannah. We passed up the ridge on which Brumannah stands, but gradually wound along its south-east side, until we reached the bottom of the ravine which separates it from the ridge which lies to the south. Much of the higher part of the ridge on which Brumannah stands is of the sandstone formation; it is, however, singularly mixed with patches of limestone. We found the ravine a most rugged and rocky one, and almost wholly of limestone. We saw many loose masses of green stone at the bottom, which must have been brought from some distance, as there was no appearance of that rock in sight. In crossing the next ridge, we passed a village, in the midst of a well-cultivated spot. There were more trees, and vines and garden herbs, than I had seen at any of the villages that I had passed. The prince of this village has a pretty good-looking palace of considerable size. We passed close by it, and as the people within assembled to see the party of Franks, it gave us an opportunity to see them. After ascending about half way up this ridge, we again passed into the sandstone formation, which occupies the top, except some small locations of limestone, which appears in some strange way to have got out of its proper place. We passed over this ridge, and at the foot, near the lower part of the sandstone formation, we found the coal mines. Mr. Brattle, the English superintendent, received us most kindly, and took us through and showed us the mine. He has made four or five openings, and finds ample stores of coal. It is from three to four feet thick—dips a little into the mountain—has several considerable falls in the strata, which will require more labour in working it. There is another mine south of the next ridge, which is also now worked. The coal is not, however, as good as at the one we visited. None of the coal yet found is as good as the English coal, but most probably a further search may discover coal of a better quality. It is about ten or fifteen years since this coal was first discovered. Several men were sent to examine it, but were not skilful, and did not report favourably. There was an attempt to work it a few years since, but no good resulted. At length Mr. Brattle, who is acquainted with the business, was induced to come out, and under his direction they are becoming more and more important. He labours under great disadvantages from the absence of most of those aids and facilities, which are so needful in carrying on such work. He has proved, or is proving, however, that they are valuable. This coal is carried on mules and donkeys to Beyroot, over a most villainous road. Were a good road made, and proper coal waggons used, it would greatly facilitate the matter. But that day is not yet come. There is no such thing as a wheeled conveyance here, at least, I have seen none, nor the track of one of any description."

The Pacha's troops appear to swarm over the whole country, much to the annoyance of our traveller, though he admits they are usefully employed on occasions in killing locusts! a strange employment for a regular army to engage in, and marched to the spot for that special purpose. Mr. Paxton witnessed more than one flight of these destructive insects:—

"They came like a dark cloud, filling the air for a long distance. The greater part of them were above the tops of the houses; but many flew lower, and

passed through the tops of the mulberry trees. There had been a strong south-east wind for about twelve hours. They came from the east, and must, of course, have crossed the Lebanon. Their course was west, but as they approached the sea, I thought they varied and passed more south-west, as if not willing to go out of sight of land. For about half an hour, the air was full of them; afterwards their number decreased, but it was a long time before the last straggler had passed. About three days afterwards we had them again from the south-west—the wind had changed, and now came from that quarter. They now seemed disposed to stop. The gardens and sands were full of them. They did not seem to eat anything, but were employed in depositing their eggs, which they place in the sands or earth. An acquaintance of mine, who has just returned from Tripoli, states that all the way from Ji-bail to the river Beyroot, a distance of nearly twenty miles, the locusts are thrown out on the shore in such numbers, as to lie from eighteen inches to two feet deep—they have been drowned in the sea. The old locusts do not do much injury; it is the young ones, which will come out in a month or six weeks after the eggs are deposited in the sands, that eat so voraciously and destroy all before them."

Jerusalem itself was, it appears, crowded with the Pacha's troops. At Hebron, not long before Mr. Paxton's visit, they "committed great outrages on the Jews, by plundering them of all they could find. They broke into their synagogues, and opened all parts of it in which they thought anything could be found, mutilated and tore their roll of the law, and perpetrated many other enormities." This, for a "sacred city," was not very ceremonious. The Jews hold it a great privilege to live here, and the superstitious believe, or affect to believe, that if persons when old come and live at Hebron, they will become young again, which our author, judging from the appearance of many, pronounces a decided mistake. The Dead Sea, Lebanon, Baalbec, &c. were all visited by our author. Of the former he says—

"To my very agreeable surprise, I found the shore fine, smooth, gravelly, and deepening very slowly, so that a person might wade in for some distance. There was along the shore drift-wood, most of it small, but still larger than any I had seen on the Jordan. This would seem to indicate that somewhere on its shores, there is more timber than we found in the spot we visited. The water was not only very salt, but exceedingly bitter, as much so as most travellers have stated. The great density of the water was amply proved by its power to bear up the body. There is some truth in the saying, that it requires an effort to keep the feet and legs under, so as to use them with advantage in swimming. I could lie on my back in the water, with my head, hands and feet all out at the same time, and remain thus as long as I pleased without making any motion whatever; this I could not do in any other water that I have been in. Still it is carrying the matter too far and beyond the truth, when it is said to be so heavy, or so dead, that it never rises in waves, but always lies smooth and unruffled let the wind blow as it will. The drift wood thrown out is evidence to the contrary."

Mr. Paxton states, that the water was clear enough to show the bottom distinctly; that the whole sea and shore were by no means so desolate-looking as he had been led to expect: on the contrary, it reminded him of the beautiful lake of Nice. At Baalbec, we have nothing very new, and shall push on to Lebanon. A steep ascent, of 2,000 feet, is right before us, with not a bush for shelter; the view most extensive, reaching far over the Mediterranean:—

"Then there was a small level, in which several springs of water took their rise, and from the lower side of this level another deep and rough hollow opened, with stupendous precipices on its sides. Below this, and along the sides, we saw trees and a considerable village. Near the middle of the little plain, at the foot of the steep descent below us, we saw a clump of trees, but they looked too few or too small for the cedars. They resembled a small orchard of evergreens. We found, however, on reaching the

plain, that they were the cedars we sought. They stand in regular groups, spread over several little stony knolls, and may possibly cover eight or ten acres of ground. * * We spread our carpets, and spent the night under one of the father-trees of this grove. It is not easy to decide how many old trees there are; eight or ten have a more venerable appearance than the remainder; still others approach them so nearly in size and marks of age, that it is difficult to say why one should be called old and the other young. I once thought of counting the grove, but from the irregularity of the ground, and the situation of the trees, this was no easy matter—especially for a man who had crossed the Lebanon the same day. I counted, however, a small section, and am disposed to think that there may be from 300 to 500 trees that are more than a foot in diameter—possibly 150 that may be above two feet—and about 50 or 60 that may be from 3 to 4 feet in diameter. A few we measured; the largest was 39 feet in circumference—one 32—one 29—one 28 and one 23—these may serve as a sample. Most of the large ones forked near the ground, and were rather assemblages of trees from the same root than a single tree. Those of the third size had some of them fine, straight bodies, and ran up to a considerable height. We procured some specimens of the wood, and a sample of the cones, and then bid adieu to this much talked of grove. It is pretty certain that this grove did not furnish wood for Solomon. It lies opposite Tripoli, which is two days north of Beyroot, and Beyroot is north of Tyre and Sidon. It lies up far from the sea, and has a piece of country between it and the sea as rough as can well be found anywhere. The grove does not appear to be diminishing, but rather increasing. I saw no stumps of fallen trees, and young ones are springing up. There is a kind of religious reverence for these trees among the neighbouring villagers. They have a singular appearance standing alone in the midst of a small plain on which no other trees grow, with no other trees above them, nor for a considerable space below. Another singular fact is, that there is no water running among them. There is a stream on the side of the plain, but it comes not near them. The ground appears enriched with the leaves that fall from them, and looks precisely as the soil usually does in a pine grove."

This was the second visit to Lebanon. On the former occasion,—

"What gave us most interest were the shells which we found at many places as we ascended, and also on the top itself. We found some very fine specimens of them—four or more varieties. I procured several, nearly as large as a common conch shell; all of them were petrified. At various places on the side, and also on the summit, we saw rocks that appeared little else than a mass of shells."

Mr. Paxton often speaks with delight of the clearness and dryness of the air in this region. He thinks it surpasses even the climate of Italy. It struck him most forcibly when viewing distant objects. The mountain village, Brumannah, is more than two hours' hard travelling from Beyroot, but as he looked down on the city he could hardly persuade himself that he could not fling a stone into its bay. Elsewhere, he says, it is no marvel that astronomy began in the East—none that the hosts of heaven should be worshipped in such a country. The following will interest the meteorologists:—

"I have repeatedly witnessed since I came to the mountains an appearance in the setting sun, which I never before saw, nor have I ever seen it noticed in books. In this dry season of the year, we have but few clouds, and the sun usually clear; but in setting, it very often assumes strange and singular appearances. They begin about the time the lower part of the sun touches the line of the horizon. The lower part, at times, appears to flatten up; the upper, to flatten down; and at times, the sides flatten in—so that the disk of the sun forms nearly a square; it seldom, however, took this form. More frequently about the time that one-half of the disk is sunk below the horizon, a portion of the upper part of the remainder appears to separate from the body of the sun, and often assumes the form of an inverted cone, or rather that of a common wash-bowl, set on the sun,

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and at times separated from it by a black mark, of any an inch in diameter. This crown-like appearance, at times, is distinctly visible after the disk of the sun has disappeared; at other times, the body of the sun appeared to be surrounded with a groove and a band; giving it the appearance of the capital of a pillar. I have seen it again and again, as it sunk under the line of the horizon, flatten down, and spend out horizontally, until, in truth, it did not look wider than a large walking staff, while it appeared nearly a yard in length—the length of the strip of luminous matter appeared really longer than the usual apparent width of the disk before it began to take the new form. But the most singular fact of all remains to be told. We have several times seen, for it is the most rare appearance, the sun appear distinctly under the horizon, after the luminous aspect was wholly gone. It appeared as a dark mass, nearly of the shape of the sun, but much larger. It seemed under the water, and gradually to sink deeper and deeper. This sinking of it below the line of the horizon causes it to appear to approach nearer the spectator. I saw it on one occasion most distinctly, when the distance of its upper edge appeared a full yard below the line of the horizon. It then gradually became fainter and fainter, until it disappeared."

In explanation of this phenomenon, Mr. Paxton alludes again to the air, the effect of the sandy shores, the ocean, and, finally, the fact, that he saw the sun set over the great island of Cyprus. But with one more mountain scene we must conclude. The gipsies, it appears, were "come hither also." At the village of Bhamdoon,—

"They came in companies of from ten to thirty, men, women, and children, mostly mounted on donkeys. They encamped in a thrashing-floor near by, which gave us an opportunity to observe their motions, and learn their habits. They carry with them a few utensils for cooking, and a few articles with which they cover themselves at night. They will occasionally put up a rude tent, to shelter them from the sun. Some of them manufacture a few things which they dispose of in their rambles. Attached to each company are two or three who play on musical instruments, and amuse the people with their feats of jugglery. They have a language of their own, with which they converse amongst themselves, but are familiar with Arabic. They are great beggars, and notorious thieves. The people are careful to secure their chickens and donkeys, when the gipsies are in the neighbourhood. They do not remain long at one place, —here to-day and gone to-morrow. They stroll over the mountains in the summer, but remove farther south in winter."

Here we take our leave.

Report on Steam Vessel Accidents. Presented by Mr. Poulett Thomson. Ordered by the House of Commons to be printed.

The lamentable loss of the *Forfarshire* and *Northern Yacht* steam-vessels almost simultaneously, last winter, excited such a "clamour from without," that it at length attracted the attention of our legislators to a subject which, though it concerns no political party, is deeply interesting to the people of this mighty commercial empire. Already, so far back as 1824, the French government took this subject into serious consideration, appointed a commission of scientific men, the most distinguished in the kingdom—Arago, Dulong, Prony, &c., called the Commissioners of *Rondelles Fusibles*, who reported on the best means of providing for the public safety, and were then appointed inspectors of steam-vessels throughout France. The Commissioners forthwith issued instructions and regulations, which, in 1828 and 1830, were extended and improved, principally by a series of experiments carried on for this purpose by the aforesaid Board of *Rondelles Fusibles*. The government of Belgium immediately followed the example, and the slow and cautious Dutch were long ago roused from their national apathy, and the Quackenbosses, the Knickerbockers, the Ten Breecheses, and the Tough Breecheses, be-

stirred themselves in this matter of life-rents and guelders. The United States have likewise adopted measures of public safety, which have rendered accidents comparatively rare in those parts of the States to which they apply.

The fact that our own legislators have done nothing for the public protection, is not to be attributed either to the want of occasion for their interposition, or to their want of knowledge of the danger. Scarcely a season has gone by without the loss of steam-vessels, and of the property and lives committed to them; and so early as 1817, a Committee of the House of Commons sat upon the subject of steam accidents, and another in 1831; and casual notices of the same subject appear in the Reports on the Holyhead Roads. The first of these committees gave in the following report: "That while your Committee are still more averse than when they entered on the inquiry, to propose to the House the adoption of any legislative measure, by which the science and ingenuity of our artists might even appear to be fettered or discouraged, they apprehend that a consideration of what is due to the public safety has on several occasions established the principle, that where that safety may be endangered by ignorance, avarice, or inattention, it becomes the duty of Parliament to interpose;"—and they accordingly proposed regulations of safety. Regulations of a similar nature were also proposed by the Committee of 1831, but without effect; and even at the present moment there appears to be little chance of attention being aroused so strongly as to produce an efficient and satisfactory measure.

The case is, it must be admitted, one of some degree of legislative difficulty. The mercantile interests of this country will not allow themselves to be trammelled by regulations and inspections, of a nature likely to interfere with the spirit of mercantile enterprise, or of mechanical invention: and, on the other hand, it is most true, that notwithstanding the honour and probity of the higher class of British merchants, who own our better class of steam-vessels, there exist multitudes of petty proprietors of old and cast off steam-boats, whose cupidity and avarice are only equalled by their ignorance and recklessness. By these the trade and character of steam navigation is deteriorated, and the public interests sacrificed with impunity. To restrict beneficially the one, without trammelling injuriously the other, appears to be a legislative problem of some difficulty; and because it appears to be a matter of some difficulty, it seems not unlikely that it may be thrown overboard altogether.

We shall, however, present our readers with an analysis and some extracts from the Evidence and Report, and at some future time perhaps examine the means of remedy which present themselves.

The evidence accompanying this Report has not been collected in the way usual with Committees of the House of Commons, but according to a method which has been sometimes adopted in similar instances, and which might, we think, be adopted in many more with great advantage. The method we allude to, is not that of a Sitting Committee, but a Walking Committee—not a Committee in London, before whom witnesses are collected at great expense from distant parts of the country, but a couple of Commissioners having Her Majesty's roving commission to hunt, in couple, over the country wherever a good cover gives promise of abundant game, and to nose out and pounce upon every unlucky wight, who ever had the misfortune of either blowing up others or being blown up himself. Thus the time and travelling expenses of two, are substituted for the time and travelling expenses of many; and the matter is both more

fully and more cheaply investigated on the spot than at a distance.

Capt. Pringle, formerly of the Royal Engineers, and Mr. Josiah Parkes, were Her Majesty's Roving Commissioners of Inquiry into explosions and other accidents of steam vessels. Mr. Josiah Parkes is a practical engineer, well known for his admirable papers on the statistics of boilers, in the transactions of the Institute of Civil Engineers, and Capt. Pringle being a member of Her Majesty's Corps of Military Engineers, the Lords of Her Majesty's Board of Trade most wisely considered, that an engineer being an engineer all the world over, and explosions and blowing up by gunpowder, being the trade of the military engineer, the appointment of an officer of merit in this commission would be quite in the way of his profession, "seeking for glory in the boiler's mouth."

The Commissioners appear to have been very active and very successful, in eliciting information of the most valuable description. The experience of practical engineers, the knowledge of men of science, and the observations of men of common sense, appear to have been contributed freely and frankly to them on every side. The importance of the inquiry may be inferred from the vast amount of our mercantile steam navy. The following is a table taken from the Custom House returns of

The Mercantile Steam Navy of Great Britain.

	Vessels.	Tons.	Horse Power.
Great Britain and Ireland	760	140,718	56,490
Islands and Plantations	50	17,114	6,760
Total	810	157,832	63,250

This account, however, does not come down beyond 1838, and even in that period it is defective, as there are many vessels with which we ourselves are acquainted omitted from this number; so that, including our war frigates, our whole steam fleet is probably about 850 to 900 strong, comprising about 170,000 tons, and 70,000 horses power; being the largest steam navy in the world—that of America numbers only about 700 to 800. The capital invested in steam-vessels in this country must be about 8,000,000*l*.

It will not appear wonderful that amongst so large a number of ships some accidents have occurred. On the contrary, it is astonishing how few accidents have taken place in steam-vessels compared to those which have occurred in other modes of travelling. If we only recollect that in a steam-vessel there is generally a mass of burning fuel as wide as the whole breadth of the vessel and from six to ten feet long—if to this we add the fact, that a sheet of flame some thirty or forty feet in length, rushes along between the decks of a steam-vessel, it becomes matter of astonishment that an accident by fire or explosion is not the daily instead of the extraordinary occurrence. The whole number of explosions in the United Kingdom amounts to only 23! In America, in the same time, the number has been about 260. In this country 77 lives have been lost, in America above 300. Explosions, however, have not been the only causes of accidents; 40 steam-vessels are set down as having been wrecked, foundered, or placed in imminent peril, 17 vessels burnt, 12 severely damaged by collisions.

We shall now present our readers with a few of the very interesting communications contained in this Report. It is satisfactory in one point of view to us, while it is very disgraceful to those concerned in the vessels, to find that almost every accident has occurred from culpable negligence or gross mismanagement, malconstruction, or ignorance; because it shows that the evils are not inherent in the nature of steam itself, nor of an abstruse and incomprehensible nature, but are such as ordinary care, prudence, and conscientiousness, may remedy or avoid.

Accidents from the bad condition of the hull of Steam-vessels.—One of the worst cases of this nature was the loss of the *Northern Yacht*. It appears that this vessel was built from the refuse of a builder's yard, set up for sale by auction, and knocked down to the highest bidder, whose injudicious saving has cost him his vessel, and the public forty lives. The fate of this vessel was most appalling,—she went down at sea, and was never more heard of, all on board having perished. A Mr. William Greener gives the following as the confidential conversation of the captain of the *Northern Yacht* a few days before she went to sea. He expressed his wish to change his situation, for, said he, "I have a vessel under me that is not worth a straw; the boilers are not much better, for last trip we had to lay-to and caulk the boilers with wedges of wood and white lead; and how long the owners will work her in this state, God only knows!" This was only four days before this wretched craft took him, and his messmates, and passengers, to the bottom of the German Ocean. Mr. R. W. Swan, a passenger in the previous voyage, says, "Both my fellow passengers and I considered her a very weak vessel, and not adapted to contend against a heavy sea. The wind was blowing strong from the north-east, and had caused a very heavy cross sea, which, in its turn, caused the vessel to strain so much, that the seams on deck, next the waterways, appeared to open at least half an inch each time! The engine, too, was very defective, so that the steam escaped from it to the cabin, which resembled a vapour bath during the whole passage. I mentioned these circumstances to the agent here, Mr. Wooster, on my return, who seemed to treat the matter with considerable levity!" A Mr. James Smith, a clergyman, gives the following account of one of his voyages in the said ill-fated vessel. "I was a passenger on board the *Northern Yacht* steamer, on the 23rd of August last for Leith. She sailed at six o'clock in the morning, from Newcastle, and the voyage proved extremely tedious, uncomfortable, and dangerous. The wind all day blew fresh from the N.W., in consequence of which our progress was slow; about six o'clock in the evening, when nearly off Berwick, the engine stopped, which led to some inquiry and uneasy sensations on the part of the passengers. No satisfaction, however, was obtained in answer to any questions proposed in relation to the cause of this stoppage. After the lapse of from five to ten minutes, the engine was again in motion, and we proceeded slowly on as before, till about ten o'clock at night, when the engine again stopped. The cause of this repeated stoppage could no longer be concealed. It was then found that the vessel had sprung a leak, and that the water in her hold had risen so high as to render the engine unmanageable. We were now about four miles north of St. Abb's Head. Recourse was had to the pumps, but they were found to be choked with coals, and, of course, to be of no avail. An attempt was then made to prime the gun. The small quantity of powder, however, that remained, was found to be wet, and therefore useless. As the last resort, lights were suspended by the mast head, and the sails spread, in the hope of assistance from any neighbouring vessel, or of reaching Eyemouth or Berwick. All hands were employed in baling the vessel with buckets, which, without any interval, was continued during the night, and for which part of the stowage flooring was broken up for several hours. The water was kept under, or at all events from gaining, for some time, after which the water began gradually to increase, notwithstanding the utmost activity of the crew, until the hatchway of the steward's pantry was thrown up by the force of the water below, and the

water was nearly ankle deep along the floor. We got off Berwick by about half-past three in the morning, when a pilot, attracted by the light at the mast-head, came to our assistance. The pilot recommended the employment of a tug steamer, which was procured, and the vessel drawn up on the sands to be repaired. Notwithstanding the quantity of water in her, there was not to be found any particular leak: the leakage seemed to be general over her whole bottom.

Such was the execrable state of a vessel into which the unsuspecting were decoyed by the advertisements, that she was a "Splendid New and Powerful Vessel." The appalling fact that out of about forty persons not one body has ever come on shore, has hitherto prevented a coroner's inquest, and the publication of these infamous proceedings.

Danger arising from Original Malformation of Vessel.—The following is the case of the *Aurora* steam-vessel, built at Belfast, and is an example of the evils arising from the avarice and ignorance of proprietors. It is well known that a vessel with extremely full ends, that is to say, with a form as like a sea-chest or a log as may be, carries more cargo in proportion to her tonnage than a better shaped vessel. But it does not appear to be known to all, that such a shallow, square, log-like piece of avaricious ugliness is the worst of all forms for a sea-going vessel. Of the *Aurora's* first appearance in public the following clear and excellent account is given by Mr. Macneill, the engineer. To him the passengers probably owe their lives, and as his conduct in the matter may lead others to act in the same judicious and firm manner in similar circumstances, we give it at full length:

I beg to communicate to you the following memorandum of circumstances occurring to myself and others on board a steam vessel, attempting to make a passage from Belfast to Glasgow. On Monday, the 29th of January last, I and about thirty other persons went on board the *Aurora* steam-vessel, at Belfast, bound to Glasgow. The *Aurora* was a new boat, built at Belfast, where also her engines were made; she had been tried for the first time on the previous Saturday, but had been found so crank as to lie at times nearly on her beam ends. It was, however, believed by the owners, that when she had shipped her cargo she would swim fair, and her time of sailing remained fixed accordingly.

On our going on board, and before the vessel got under weigh, we found her to heel over on one side, so that it was impossible to walk the deck; and on starting, this increased till she dipped gunwale under. After getting on a bank, from which with some difficulty she was got off, we proceeded on the voyage; and the captain, with a view to trim the vessel, caused the passengers to move to the opposite side. This immediately occasioned her to heel over on that side to such an extent that one paddle was immersed nearly to the axle, and the other lifted completely out of the water.

Notwithstanding these circumstances, and the evident unfitness of the steamer to undertake the voyage, the captain seemed resolved to continue the attempt, and in reply to my remonstrances, asserted that by arranging the cargo she would speedily right herself. This, however, was not the case. On the contrary, the vessel continued in the same state; the steam could not be kept up, and there was much danger from one part of the boiler being dry and overheated, while the other portion was water-logged. I therefore felt it my duty again to interfere, to recommend that the fire of the higher boiler should be drawn out; and I understood the suggestion was attended to.

We were now approaching the open sea, which was running very heavy, from a stiff breeze from the north-west, and perceiving no improvement in the condition of the vessel, but that the engine was only making from five to seven revolutions per minute, I considered it right to communicate with the other passengers, and stated to them my opinion of the state of the vessel. With their concurrence, I applied to the captain, and remonstrated with him on the impropriety of attempting the passage with a vessel in such a condition; he replied, that he could not interfere, as one of the proprietors was on board. I applied to this gentleman, who stated that he was not a proprietor, but the maker of the engines, and the captain could do as he thought proper. Finding that I could not succeed by these remonstrances, I again went into the cabin, where several of the passengers were assembled, and told them how matters stood, and that the only thing that was now left was, to write a protest to the captain, and insist on his returning to port. They immediately requested I would write the protest, which I did, and which was afterwards signed by all the passengers in the cabin, except one gentleman. I was then proceeding on deck, to hand it to the captain, when I met him at the door of the cabin; on giving it to him, he said, "Very well; that he had already ordered the ship about, and that he would endeavour to return to Belfast, or come to anchor in the river."

This is an example of original mal-construction of vessel. From malformation of boiler equal dangers have resulted.

Original Bad Construction of Boiler.—It is a remarkable fact that most of the accidents to steam-vessels by explosion have occurred from a formation of boiler, which speculative men and book-makers on engineering, have generally recommended as strongest, namely, the cylindrical boiler—or rather, we should say, the cylindrical flued boiler. Our readers, if at all familiar with the subject of steam,—so all-pervading an agent in the affairs of every-day life,—are probably aware that the cylindrical or round boiler is considered the strongest form, not only for the outside, but also for the inside of a boiler. This is true to a certain extent for the outside, but not for the inside. An internal cylindrical flue has given rise to seven of the worst accidents by steam explosion! Since this Report was printed, two accidents have taken place from tubular internal flues! Surely boiler-makers will profit by these examples. On this subject we give the following evidence of two well-known parties, adduced by the Commissioners, whose opinions strongly corroborate each other,—these are Messrs. Maudslay & Field, and Mr. Scott Russell.

Messrs. Maudslay & Field on Steam Boilers.—Accidents have happened to boilers from the following causes:—1, From an improper form being given to such as are intended to bear considerable pressure. 2, From insufficient thickness of plate. 3, From insufficient staying. 4, From decay of the plates, and being sent to sea in a worn-out, leaky state. From one or all of these causes boilers have given way.

In the class of marine boilers denominated low-pressure, that is, when the steam is limited to about five pounds on the square inch, the giving way, tearing, or rending does not amount to an explosion. Nothing is displaced, nor is any injury necessarily done to the passengers or the vessel, but the hot water and steam generally escape through the ruptured part into the engine-room, scalding those who may unfortunately be near. The low-pressure rectangular boiler is that generally used in steamers of the best class: such a boiler, if well constructed, properly stayed, having two sufficient safety valves, mercurial steam gauges, proper floats and gauges for showing the state of the water, with good feed-pumps (which should be in duplicate), and if attended with ordinary care, may be pronounced perfectly safe.

The next class of boilers to which accidents have occurred are of nearly the same construction, having the crown circular, and stayed at every eight inches in all parts except the circular top; such are many of the American boilers. In these the steam is raised to a pressure of thirty or forty pounds on the inch, and their strength depends entirely on their stays. Fatal accidents have often happened to such boilers, and with so great a pressure an absolute explosion takes place, breaking up the deck of the vessel, and spreading destruction all round.

Another class is the cylindrical boiler, with cylindrical fire tubes and flues, which derive their strength principally from their circular form. Many and very fatal accidents have happened from this class of boilers, and these chiefly from the collapse of the tube in which the fire is contained, which loses its strength when it loses its true circular form. While the strength for the casing sustaining internal pressure, admits of easy calculation, it is not so easy to determine that for the part sustaining external pressure, and hence many accidents arise. The most recent case of this kind is that of the *Victoria*, the fire-tube of which twice collapsed under a pressure of about fifteen pounds on the inch.

In this case an absolute explosion did not take place, nor was the boiler moved out of its position.

Such are the several kinds of boilers used in steamers:—1, The ordinary low-pressure boilers, which cannot explode from the small pressure at which they work, and which have seldom been attended with accident, even when badly constructed and badly managed. 2, The second class of boilers are much the same, more strongly stayed, and the pressure raised so high that if any part should give way it amounts to an explosion of the whole. 3, The third are the cylindrical, which sometimes explode the case or shell, but more frequently collapse the fire-tube. 4, Those accidents which arise from the decay of the plate, may occur in each kind of boiler, and produce scalding or explosion, or endanger the vessel by suspending the operation of the engines in perilous situations. Vessels have been lost from worn-out boilers so failing. The danger of boilers failing at sea is obviated by having them made in two or more distinct parts, which may be all used together, or each part separately, with valves to shut off those out of use: so that should any one part become disabled, the voyage would not be materially interrupted. This method is adopted in the best vessels, and is a great security.

Mr. Scott Russell on Steam Boilers.—Of explosions there are two principal causes, the one due to original construction, the other to subsequent mismanagement. Of marine boilers there are two classes, tabular and tubular. The tabular boiler is that in which extensive flat surfaces, or surfaces nearly flat, are used to form both the outward shell and the internal flues. This kind of boiler is that most commonly used by Bolton & Watt, by Napier, of Glasgow, and Caird & Co. of Greenock, and in general for all low-pressure boilers. Now almost the whole strength of this depends on internal stays; with stays too small in number, it is capable of withstanding very little more than 2½ or 3 pounds on the inch, but if by accident or by overheating the flues a greater quantity of steam should suddenly be generated, they are sure to give way, as in the Hull case and the *Earl Grey*. The only means of perfect security in tabular boilers is a regular system of stays. These ought to be distributed uniformly over all the surface in three directions, lengthwise, up and down, and transversely. This is at present done in the best boilers, but by no means universally. It should be a rule for tabular boilers that no portion of the surface, either external or internal, be left of greater extent than two feet square, without a stay sufficient to sustain the whole pressure on that surface. It ought also to be enacted, that the water space between flues shall nowhere be less than four inches thick for salt water, and three inches for fresh water.

Tubular boilers are frequently used, especially where considerable pressure is to be employed. In these boilers the flues and fireplace are generally cylindrical, and sometimes also the outside. The boiler of the *Victoria*, which exploded on the Thames, was of this kind, only of an oval form. In my opinion, internal tubular or cylindrical flues of any considerable size, ought to be employed only with extreme caution; they are liable to dangers which do not appear to be known. My attention was first called to them about twelve years ago, by the collapse of a cylindrical flue in a tubular boiler of my own, used for experimental purposes. This flue on one occasion, when subjected to a moderate pressure, collapsed in the following manner: the form of the flue inverting itself, and becoming convex instead of concave; after, however, it took this form it stood very well, and sustained greater pressures than those which had caused the collapse, with perfect safety. The boiler was of

copper: had it been made of iron, an explosion would have taken place. This directed my attention to the defects of circular internal flues; and I am satisfied that they should never be made of a large size for the purposes of steam navigation, as they were in the case of the *Victoria*. An internal flue answers very well so long as everything about the boiler is uniform, and the heat equally diffused, but the moment that one part of the flue is made a little hotter than another, or has become thinner by use, or if there happens to be a bad plate of iron in the flue, from that instant the boiler has become dangerous, and the flue has a tendency to invert itself and become concave. It should be enacted, that no internal flue of the cylindrical form, and of more than two feet diameter, should ever be inserted in a marine boiler, and that its thickness should not be less than one quarter of an inch for six inches diameter, and one-eighth of an inch additional thickness for every additional six inches diameter; thus,—

For 6 inches diameter + inch thick.

12	..	¾	..
18	..	¾	..
24	..	¾	..

Of the external cylindrical portions of boilers, where the pressure is from the inside, outwardly, there is no risk in a like degree.

The remedial measures to be enforced form the next part of this Report, and the subject of a great proportion of the opinions elicited by the commissioners, but we shall delay the consideration of them until the period of legislation has approached a little nearer.

THE ANNUALS FOR 1840.

SINCE our notice last week, *Finden's Tableaux* and the *Oriental* have appeared, and both in general merit are fully equal to the former volumes of the respective series, and both this year put in a special claim to favour. The sameness which has heretofore characterized the illustrations of the *Oriental* has been in some degree relieved by a more varied selection of subjects. A highly curious and interesting portrait, by a native artist, of Akbar Shah, second Emperor of Delhi, engraved by Cochran with a truth and effect equally extraordinary and admirable, is prefixed to the volume. Another picture, somewhat peculiar, is the Suba's House Boorhanpoor; the architectural character of which is rich and picturesque, and in its prevailing forms reminds us of the Venetian palaces. Mr. Bacon too appears to have introduced more of life and interest into the literature, which is a sort of mosaic made up of sketches of history, anecdotes, descriptions and tales. One of the historical sketches is brief enough to serve our purpose as an extract:

"The story of King Hummaione and the *Bihisti*, would form the basis of a romance worthy of the Arabian Nights; but being a veritable passage in the history of the Delhi emperors, I will relate it according to the best version, and without embellishment. In A. D. 1539, the emperor Hummaione, being in personal command of his forces, gave battle to the redoubtable invader Shere Khan and his Afghan army, upon the banks of the Karamassur. Hummaione was victorious in the field; but the crafty Afghan succeeded in regaining all the honours and advantages of conquest, and an ample revenge, by a bold stratagem which he carried into effect that same night. While the troops of the emperor were wrapt in sound sleep, and in the fatal security of their previous success, Shere Khan, with the survivors of his hardy followers, surprised the camp and massacred thousands of the Moguls. Those who perished not by the sword fled, unarmed, in the confusion of the panic; and the emperor himself would have fallen into the hands of the pursuers, had it not been for the devoted gallantry of three of his chief omras, who nobly sacrificed their lives for his sake, and effected his escape. Trusting to the speed of his

faithful charger, Hummaione made for the bridge, but found it destroyed; and, his pursuers being upon his heels, no hope appeared to be left, but to commit himself to the waters. He dashed down the precipitous bank into the torrent, was dismounted in the fall, and carried headlong down the rapid stream; so that his enemies thought that he had perished. His better destiny, however, interposed between him and the abyss of destruction, and he was saved, when almost insensible, by the brave efforts of a *Bihisti*, or water-carrier, who happened to be filling his water-skins at the river-side. Finding himself thus unexpectedly rescued from a watery grave, Hummaione bestowed the rich gift of his royal necklace upon his poor preserver, and promised him, upon his princely faith, that if it should ever please Providence again to restore him to his kingdom, he would, when so requested by the *Bihisti*, place him upon the imperial *musnud*, clothed in the royal robes, and with full liberty to exercise despotic powers as emperor of Hindostan, for the space of six hours. Not long afterwards Hummaione's good genius was again in the ascendant, and while he was one day employed in transacting the affairs of the state in the royal hall of audience, the *Bihisti* presented himself before the presence and claimed fulfilment of the emperor's promise. Faithful to his engagement, the generous monarch no sooner recognized his deliverer than he descended from his throne, and causing the *Bihisti* to supply his place, he formally delegated to him authority to exercise all the various functions of the sovereign supreme, himself being the first to perform homage. The *Bihisti* was in no sort abashed by the novelty of his position, or confused by the adulation and officious servility of his courtiers; but restoring order to the court, he employed his ephemeral authority in framing certain decrees and ordinances in favour of all classes of *Bihistis*, which remain on record (and in force within the palace walls) to this day. The privileges which he thus bestowed on himself and his fellow *Bihistis*, were of the most reasonable and modest kind; and so much was Hummaione pleased with his preserver's conduct, that, on the termination of his short reign, and on the moment of his own re-accession, he elevated the *Bihisti* to permanent rank and distinction as a noble of the realm, and bestowed the solid advantages of comparative wealth and independence upon all the members of his family."

The designs in *Finden's Tableaux* are after the fashion of their class; but some of them are very beautifully engraved—the Beacon, as it is called, is deserving of especial mention for its brilliant effect. The novelty to which we have alluded is the encircling these designs with a sort of arabesque border, in which a series of small groups illustrates the principal points in the story. Miss Mitford, the editor, is also the principal contributor: and where shall we find a pleasanter narrator of a short healthy, racy, story, just such a one as is sure to be the gem of an Annual! She has, however, secured some worthy assistants in Miss Barrett, Barry Cornwall, Mr. Kenyon, Mr. J. R. Chorley, Mr. Horne, and others. Tales require more space than we can afford, and are not exactly suited to our purpose. We shall therefore steal a few verses from a wild legend, entitled 'The Brown Rosarie,' by Miss Barrett. The reader must understand that our extract is but a fragment of the poem:—

'Tis a morn for a bridal. The merry bride-bell
Ringeth clear through the greenwood that skirts the chapelle;
And the priest at the altar awaiteth the bride,
And the grave young sacristans jest slyly aside
At the work shall be doing.

While down through the wood rides that fair companie,
The youths with the courtship, the maids with the glee,
Till the chapel-cross opens to sight, and at once
All the maids sigh demurely, and think, for the nonce,
So endeth a wooing!

And the bride and the bridegroom are leading the way,
With his hand on her rein, and a word yet to say;
Her dropped lids suggest the replying beneath,
And the little quick smiles come and go with her breath
If she sigheth or speaketh.

And the tender bride-mother breaks off unaware,
From an Ave to trow that her daughter is fair;
But, in nearing the chapel, and glancing before,
She seeth her little son stand at the door—
Is it play that he seeketh?

Is it play? when his eyes wander innocent, wild,
Yet sublimed with a sadness unfitting a child.
He trembles not, weeps not, his passion is done,
And meekly he kneels in their midst, with the sun
On his head like a glory.

"O merry fair maids, ye are many," he cried,
"But in fairness and vileness who matcheth the bride?
O merry brave youths, ye are many, but whom
For courage and woe can ye match with the groom,
As ye see them before ye?"

Outspoke the bride's mother—"The vileness is thine,
Who would'st shame thine own sister, a bride at the shrine!"
Outspoke the bride's lover, "The vileness is mine,
If he shame mine own wife at the hearth or the shrine!
And his charge be unproved."

"Bring the charge, prove the charge, brother! speak it aloud,
That thy father and hers hear it deep in the shroud!"
—"O father, thou seest—for dead eyes can see—
How she wears on her bosom a *brown rosarie*,
O father beloved."

Outlaid the bridegroom, and outlaughed all
The maidens and youths by that old chapel wall—
"So she weareth no love-gift, kind brother," quoth he,
"She may wear an ear she listeth a *brown rosarie*,
Like a pure-hearted lady."

Then swept through the chapel the long bridal train,
Though he spake to the bride she replied not again;
On, as one in a dream, pale and stately she went
Where the altar lamps burn o'er the great sacrament,
Faint with daylight, but steady!

But her brother had passed between them and her,
And calmly knelt down on the high altar stair—
Of an infantine aspect so stern to the view
That the priest could not smile as he used to do
When a child knelt before him.

He knelt like a child, marble-carved and white,
That appeareth to pray on the tomb of a knight;
With a look taken up to each iris of stone,
From the greatness and death where he kneeleth, and none
From the mother who bore him!

"In your chapel, O priest, ye have wedded and shiven
Fair wives for the heart, and fair sinners for heaven!
But this fairest, my sister, ye think now to wed,
Bid her kneel where she standeth, and shive her instead.
Oh shive her, and wed not!"

In tears, the bride's mother, "O priest, unto thee
Would he lie, as he lied to this fair companion!"
In wrath, the bride's lover, "This lie shall be clear,
Speak it out, boy! The saints in their niches shall hear!
Be the charge proved or said not!"

Serene in his childhood he lifted his face,
And his voice sounded holy and fit for the place,
"Look down from your niches, ye saints and saints, and see
How she wears on her bosom a *brown rosarie*,
Doth she wear it for praying?"

The youths looked aside—to laugh there were a sin.
And the maidens' lips trembled with smiles shut within;
Quoth the priest, "Thou art wild, pretty boy! blessed she
Who prefers at her bridal a *brown rosarie*
To a worldly arraying."

The bridegroom spake low, and led onward the bride,
And before the high altar they kneel side by side;
The rite book is opened, the rite is begun—
They have knelt down together to rise up as one!
Who laughed by the altar?

The maidens looked upward, the youths looked around,
The bridegroom's eye flashed from his prayer at the sound;
And each saw the bride as if no bride she were,
Gazing cold at the priest without gesture of prayer
As he read from the psalter.

The priest never knew that she did so, but still
He felt a power on him too strong for his will;
And whenever the great NAME was there to be said,
His voice sunk to silence—that could not be said,
Or the air could not hold it!

"I have sinned," quoth he, "I have sinned I wot!"
And the tears ran down his old cheeks at the thought:
They dropped on the book, but he read on the same,
And aye was the silence where should be the NAME,
The serastians have told it.

The rite book is closed, the rite being done—
They who knelt down together have risen as one;
Fair riseth the bride—Oh, a fair bride is she,
But for all (think the maidens) that *brown rosarie*,
No saint at her praying!

What aileth the bridegroom? he stands stony-eyed;
Then suddenly turning he kisseth the bride—
Cold, cold. He glanced upward, fear-stricken and mute:
"Mine own wife," he said, and fell stark at her foot
In the word he was saying.

They have lifted him up, but his head sinks away,
And his face showeth bleak in the sunlight and grey;
Leave him now where he lieth, for oh, nevermore
Will he kneel at an altar or stand on a floor,
With that wife gazing on him!

Long and still was her gaze, while they chafed him there
And breathed in the mouth whose last life kissed her!
But when they stood up—only they! with a start,
The shriek from her soul struck her pale lips apart,
She hath loved and foregone him.

And low on his body she sinketh adown:
"Didst call me thine own wife, beloved, thine own?
Then take thine own with thee! Thy coldness is warm
To the world's cold without thee! Come, teach me thy calm,
I would learn it, beloved!"

She looked in his face earnest, long, as in sooth
There were hope of an answer, then kissed his mouth,
And with head on his bosom, wept, wept bitterly,
"Now, O God, take pity,—take pity on me!
Let the sin be removed!"

She was ware of a shadow that crossed where she lay,
She was ware of a presence that curdled the day,
Wild she sprang to her feet. "I surrender to thee,
The broken vows witness the foul rosarie,
I am ready for dying!"

She dashed it in scorn to the hollow-paved ground,
Where it fell mute as snow; and a weird music sound
Crept up—like a chill—up the aisles long and dim,
As the winds tried to mock at the choristers' hymn
But moaned in the trying.

We are much tempted to steal a little Spanish
song, by Mr. H. F. Chorley, and, indeed, the whole
tale, into which it has been so gracefully woven
by Miss Mitford; but we must have the follow-
ing, by Mr. Kenyon, and be content with it:

To an Æolian Harp.

Oh! breezy harp! that, with thy fond complaining,
Hast held my willing ear this whole night long:
Mourning, as one might dream, yon moon, slow waning,
Solo listener oft thy melodious song;

Sweet harp! if hushed awhile that tuneful sorrow,
Which may not flow unintermittent still:
A lover's prayer one strain less sad might borrow,
Of all thou pourest at thine own sweet will.

Now, when—her forehead in that pale moon gleaming,—
Yon dark-tressed maid beneath the softening hour,
As fain to lose no touch of thy sad streaming,
Leans to the night from forth her latticed bow;

And the low whispering air, and thy lone ditty,
Around her heart their mingled spells have wove;
Now cease those notes awhile that plain for pity,
And wake thy bolder song, and ask for love.

Architectura Domestica, von A. de Chateaufauf, 4to. London.—This is the work of an eminent architect of Hamburg, and contains designs for domestic edifices, either executed or projected by him: the text is in German and English. The style of architecture which Mons. Chateaufauf has adopted is elegant, partaking largely of the Berlin school of design, the head master of which is the celebrated Schinkel. There are three designs for houses proposed to be built on quays at Hamburg, composed on the model and general effect of Venetian palaces; that is, adopting the general masses, with purer details; and they would, no doubt, have been effective had they been executed. The superb house of Dr. Augustus Abendroth is at once an evidence of the skill and taste of the author. He has admirably overcome the difficulty of an irregular plot of ground, and decorated the front with a noble simplicity. The interior exhibits a great variety of chaste embellishment, in which Mons. Chateaufauf has combined the works of Thorwaldsen, Siegel, Speckter, Milde, and Asher. Such an union of painting, sculpture and architecture must have an imposing magnificence worthy a wealthy family distinguished for its liberality and good taste. We have also been gratified in noticing the masterly graver of our countryman Bury, who has executed the plates with the utmost purity of outline. The work may be consulted with pleasure and advantage by our architects, as it presents many novel and interesting features, which might be successfully adopted in this country.—Since the preceding notice was written, our favourable estimate of M. Chateaufauf's talents has been confirmed by the decision of the architects appointed to select the best designs for the new Royal Exchange, who have awarded to him the second prize.

List of New Books.—Nicholas Nickleby, 8vo. cl. 21s. half morocco, 24s. 6d., morocco, 26s. 6d.—Heads of the People, 8vo. cl. 14s., half-morocco, 20s., morocco, 20s.—Fisher's Drawing-Room Scrap-Book for 1840, 4to. 21s. elegantly bound.—Fisher's Juvenile Scrap-Book for 1840, 8vo. 8s. morocco.—Shores and Islands of the Mediterranean, Vol. I. 21s. morocco.—The Keepsake for 1840, edited by Lady E. S. Wortley, 4to. 21s. silk, 32s. 6d. morocco.—The Gems of Beauty for 1840, edited by Lady Blessington, 4to. 31s. 6d. silk.—Heath's Book of Beauty for 1840, edited by Lady Blessington, 21s. silk, 32s. 6d. India proofs, mor.—Heath's Picturesque Annual for 1840, edited by Leitch Ritchie, Esq. 21s. silk, 42s. India proofs, morocco.—Finden's Tableaux for 1840, morocco, 24s. 2s., coloured, 34s., India proofs, 34s. 3s.—Oriental Annual for 1840, 8vo. morocco, 21s., large paper, 42s.—The History and Antiquities of the Collegiate Church of Southwell, by W. P. Kilpatrick, royal 4to. bds. 25s.—India proofs, imperial 4to. bds. 31s. 6d.—Woodland Sketches, imperial 4to. cl. 21s. plain, 42s. coloured.—The Statutes at Large, 2 & 3 Victoria, Vol. XV. Part I. 4to. bds. 22s.—Sweet's Hortus Britannicus, 3rd edit. edited by George Don, 8vo. cl. 21s.—Hyacinth O'Gara, Honor Delany, Irish Priests and English Landlords, 12mo.

cl. 5s.—Riddle's Manual of Christian Antiquities, 8vo. cl. 18s.—Robinson on the Acts of the Apostles, 8vo. cl. 8s.—Newman's Sermons, Vol. IV. 2nd edit. 8vo. bds. 10s. 6d.—Darrell's Arrangement and Classification of the Psalms, 18mo. cl. 4s. 6d.—The Redeemer, a Poem, by William Howarth, 8vo. cl. 8s.—Hornbeck on the Lord's Supper, 12mo. cl. 6s. 6d.—McGee's Life of Knox, 8vo. bds. 12s.—Hemans's Works, Vol. VI. 12mo. cl. 5s.—Solitary Hours, by Mrs. Southey, late Miss Bowles, 8vo. cl. 5s.—Bishop Hall's Works, Vol. XII. 8vo. bds. 12s.—Rollin's Ancient History, 2nd stereotype edit. 6 vols. 8vo. 24s.—Richard's Welsh and English Dictionary, 8vo. cl. 13s.—Eliza Cook's Poems, illustrated edit. royal 12mo. cl. 16s., morocco, 20s.—Marianne, the Last of the Amourette Princesses, post 8vo. cl. 10s. 6d.—Dick's Local Legends, 6s. cl. 5s.—Story's Law of Agency, royal 8vo. 14s.—Parker on Syphilis, 8vo. bds. 12mo. cl. 5s.—Dr. Murphy on Mercury, 8vo. bds. 5s.—Wilson's Tales of the Borders, Vol. V. 8s. cl.—Little Sketch-Book, new and improved series, 2 vols. cl. 4s.—Lacagne's Finishing French Master, or Anglismans to be avoided, 12mo. 3s. 6d. cl.—East's Songs of my Pilgrimage, 32mo. cl. 2s. 6d.—Taylor on National Establishments of Religion, in Reply to Dr. Chalmers, 6s. 6d. cl.—Christian Duties in the various Relations of Life, royal 18mo. cl. 4s.—The Oracle of Rural Life for 1840, 12mo. swd. 2s. 6d.—Addison's Essays, People's edit. royal 8vo. swd. 2s. 3d.—De Porquet's French Grammar, 9th edit. 12mo. cl. 3s. 6d.—The Language of Flowers, or Alphabet of Floral Emblems, 5th edit. enlarged, 18mo. 1s. swd.—A New Home; Wholl Follow? or Glances of Western Life, by Mrs. Clavers, 12mo. 6s. 6d. cl.—Bowring's First Lessons in Natural Theology, 18mo. cl. 1s. 6d.—Cole's Meditations and Prayers for the Sick, 18mo. cl. 1s. 3d.—A Letter to a Young Painter, by Miss Graham, 3rd edit. 2s. 12mo. cl.—Dr. Hall's Mourners in Zion, with Songs in the Night, 18mo. cl. 1s. 6d.—Humboldt's Essay on the Fluctuations in the Supplies of Gold, 8vo. swd. 1s.

[ADVERTISEMENT].—Nov. 6, will be published, in crown 8vo. 4s. 6d. cloth, with 220 Diagrams, engraved for the work, EUCLID'S ELEMENTS OF PLANE GEOMETRY; with EXPLANATORY APPENDIX, and SUPPLEMENTARY PROPOSITIONS for Exercise. Adapted for the Use of Schools, or for Self-instruction. By W. D. COOLEY, A.B. This edition of a work which in every civilized country, for many ages has been deemed the necessary introduction to a scientific education, will be found the clearest and most comprehensive extant, and best adapted for every class of students. Besides the *Explanatory Appendix* and *Supplementary Propositions*, designed to familiarize the learner with the more frequently-applied Theorems of Geometry, and thus to aid him in his study of ENGINEERING, SURVEYING, or General Physics, it contains *Exercises* for the study of Mathematics directed to TEACHERS, and to those who aim at SELF-INSTRUCTION. (A KEY, for the use of Teachers, is preparing for publication.) Also, in fols. 8vo. price 1s. 6d., THE FIGURES OF EUCLID; being the Diagrams of the preceding Volume, with the Enunciations, printed separately for the Use of Scholars in the Class-room.—Whittaker & Co. Ave. Marianne.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Leipzig, Oct. 1839.

WHILE in Berlin, fruitlessly awaiting the representation of a German opera, which the indisposition of Mdle. von Fassmann rendered impossible, I came upon the traces of some very remarkable amateur music. The most distinguished of these is the *Sing-Academie*—Zelter's favourite child—which, though it has in some degree languished since his death, still displays the life and vigour of a most interesting establishment. Its members—five hundred strong—still meet for the weekly rehearsal of choral music: a separate practice being held for the women and less assured. Nothing can be pleasanter than the former, to one of which I was admitted. The rehearsal has the air of a large sociable party—ladies drop in unattended, and the members may sing or sit still, as best pleases them. The Concert Room is a very fine hall—the work (as I think I have already said), of the architect of the Brunswick Palace.* The great expense of its erection has compelled the members to give occasionally public concerts in support of their funds. It is excellent for sound, and tasteful in its decorations. At one end is the orchestra, gently sloping down to the level of the floor, with one of Collard's grand pianos in front—for the English instruments are here deservedly held in the highest esteem; while down either side of the apartment are benches, upon which those indisposed to take a part lounge and listen; for the Germans have not with our English pianofortes adopted our English accompaniment of conversation as a necessary adjunct to music. The pieces I heard sung, were Mendelssohn's psalm, 'As pants the hart,' a motet by Haydn, and a part of a service by Fasch (the last well-composed music, but characterless). All the pieces were accompanied on the pianoforte—and all well performed. I was particularly struck with the purity and sweetness of the body of tone given out by the *soprano*; and again pleasantly reminded of the superiority of a mild, rich, natural female *contralto* over a fictitious male *falsetto*: the

* A letter from Brunswick has evidently miscarried.—Ed.

tenors and the basses, too, were forcible, and well in tune; in the mass most agreeably toned—a good quality, in which I am disposed to believe the German chorus unique. Moreover, without the slightest flinching or feebleness where energy was required, that refinement of delivery was observable, which must distinguish an amateur from professional choral performances. I should be glad to transport the *Sing-Academie*, for one evening, to Exeter Hall, to give my industrious friends there a lesson in intonation, and in the beauty of light and shade in music. But beyond the walls of the *Sing-Academie*, the amateurs of Berlin are strong enough to encounter the public; as, for instance, in concerts given for charitable purposes. I have seen and heard sufficient to assure me, that these can dispense with charity on the part of the audience; while the personal display (which would be thought so shocking in England) is a little less, and certainly a good deal more intellectual, than that parade of pretty faces so frankly volunteered, and so authentically sanctioned, at our own Fancy Fairs. Further to illustrate the difference between Germany and England, in artistic attainments, the absence of the fever of London and the flutter of Paris—the comparatively short distance from each one's home—the simplicity of the hours and (barring the plurality of meals) of the habits of society,—but beyond all, the love of what is really sterling for its own sake,—makes periodical private musical meetings an attainable and favourite resource in the Prussian metropolis. Then, for the instruction and maintenance of their taste, the Berlin amateurs enjoy the choicest of musical exhibitions—quartet playing—in perfection. So long had I listened in vain for the true combination of breadth of outline with delicacy of detail, that I was beginning, in despair, to ask whether I might not have been setting my affections on a phantom. Herr Zimmermann's quartet, however, proved me to be no dreamer. It was worth a long journey to hear the works of Beethoven, Onslow, and Mendelssohn thus executed, with all the exquisite finish, but none of the pettiness of *miniature playing*. Two or three other parties, as perfect, if not more so, are constantly to be heard during the winter season.

While speaking of the choice things of Berlin, I must *niche* in a line or two concerning the great actor of its stage, Herr Seydelmann—the only man I have ever seen who satisfies as entirely as does Mars in her more limited walk. But he satisfies by less artificial means than that wonder of—(how many?)—dynamics, who even now bids fair to outlast the already toil-consumed Mdlle. Rachel. Seydelmann's delivery, his attitudes, the delicacy of his by-play, the intelligence with which he can work up so slight a part as the one in which I saw him (*Moliere* in a funny and insipid comedy), were as delightful as they were unexpected; and doubly so, because totally free from the slightest mannerism. His range, besides the heroes of genteel comedy, includes characters as different as Shakespeare's *Shylock*, Goethe's *Mephistopheles*, and Schiller's *Philip of Spain*. His voice, it is true, is not a good one; but he manages it consummately. In his action there is not the least of that preparation or peltantry which I noted in most of his comrades, and which, though a fault on the right side, becomes as wearisome in the end, as the long aimless scenes of sentiment, which a German audience can not only support, but absolutely relish.

The military bands at Berlin are admirable; and the parade where they play at noon, made a brilliant show in the sunshine beneath the golden brown trees that circle the Guard House. I heard no church music there. One day, indeed, while passing the *Werdersche Kirche*, I was lured to enter by the grave, melancholy tones of a *corale* in a minor key. But the organ is not a fine one; and I was soon distracted from its sound to consider the glaring and fantastic blunders which Schinkel has contrived to assemble within the small oblong of this would-be Gothic building. Fancy the shallow mockery of side aisles, in the shape of a passage pierced through the slits of the projecting window-piers—fancy, in place of the time-embrowned screen-work of our ancestors, heavy, obtrusive scene paintings on wood; while, to crown the absurdity of the work, the ribs of the vaulted roof,—themselves painted, if I saw aright,—are set off on a ground of lively meretricious pink colour,—the effect of which, if any there be, must be to convert

every kneeling Magdalen into a Ninon de l'Enclos. By the way, the idea of polychromy in architecture—(not to call it by the less classical name of wall-painting)—has taken, apparently, a strong root in Germany. In spite of possible correctness, the eye is sorely hurt in the splendid Cathedral of Magdeburg, otherwise judiciously restored, by the tawdry arabesques bestowed upon the chapel enclosing Peter Vischer's exquisite monument to Archbishop Ernest. I never got reconciled, in my daily ascent to the Picture Gallery, to the square chocolate-coloured patches of make-believe porphyry, painted on the wall half the height of the building.—I doubt not on equally defensible grounds. But the worst piece of bad taste is to be seen in the Pfauen-Insel—that Isola Bella of the Havel—which the present king, having made it himself, prefers to the neighbouring more formal paradise of Sans Souci. The island is prettily laid out, though too much on Mrs. Rafferty's principle at her Tusculum (*vide* Miss Edgeworth's 'Absentee,') of having a little of everything,—it being next to impossible, for twenty consecutive yards of turf or wood-walk, to escape from the sight of a dairy, or a conservatory, or an aviary, or a menagerie, &c. &c.; and as if the *Schloss* were not already sufficiently incongruous, as a stuccoed ruin of a castle, its shattered towers connected by a filagree iron bridge, and in the midst of an English garden.† Its front is illustrated by a decoration intended to represent a crypt, with partially opened doors, within which frowns the statue of Rudolph of Hapsbourg, painted with dramatic exactness, after a statue on the famous tomb of Maximilian at Innsbruck, by Herr Gropius.

I must close this letter with a passing notice of the rumour which has just reached me, that Mrs. Bishop has been successful at Copenhagen; and that a very grand performance of 'St. Paul' is to take place at the beginning of November, at Vienna, with an orchestra of one thousand performers! H.F.C.

ENGRAVINGS IN RELIEF FROM COPPERPLATES BY MEANS OF VOLTAIC ELECTRICITY.

WE lately published (No. 624) M. Jacobi's letter to Mr. Faraday, in which he described his attempts to copy in relief engraved copperplates, by means of voltaic electricity. We have since received a communication from Mr. Thomas Spencer, of Liverpool, from which it appears, that that gentleman has for some time been independently engaged on the same subject; and that he has not only succeeded in doing all that M. Jacobi has done, but has successfully overcome those difficulties which arrested the progress of the latter. It is unnecessary here to enter on the question of priority between these gentlemen. To Mr. Spencer much credit is certainly due for having investigated, and successfully carried out, an application of voltaic electricity, the value of which can hardly be questioned. The objects which Mr. Spencer says he proposed to effect, were the following:—"To engrave in relief upon a plate of copper—to deposit a voltaic copperplate, having the lines in relief—to obtain a fac-simile of a medal, reverse or obverse, or of a bronze cast—to obtain a voltaic impression from plaster or clay—and to multiply the number of already engraved copperplates." The results which he has obtained are very beautiful; and some copies of medals which he has forwarded to us are remarkably sharp and distinct, particularly the letters, which have all the appearance of having been struck by a die.

Without entering into a detail of the steps by which Mr. Spencer brought his process to perfection, many of which are interesting, as showing how slight a cause may modify the result, we shall at once give a description of his process.

Take a plate of copper, such as is used by an engraver; solder a piece of copper wire to the back part of it, and then give it a coat of wax—this is best done by heating the plate as well as the wax—then write or draw the design on the wax with a black lead

† An English garden, without English finish: the walks throughout the Pfauen-Insel are all of heavy loose sand. Neither was a tolerably minute examination of the parterres rewarded by the discovery of even the choice flowers, which our cultivators at home, not royal in rank, collect with far less expense. There is a greater variety of plants in one patch the size of a table, in Miss Mitford's flower garden, than in the whole open-air "policy" of the King of Prussia.

pencil or a point. The wax must now be cut through with a graver or steel point, taking special care that the copper is thoroughly exposed in every line. The shape of the tool or graver employed must be such that the lines made are not V-shaped, but as nearly as possible with parallel sides. The plate should next be immersed in dilute nitric acid,—say three parts water to one acid: it will at once be seen whether it is strong enough, by the green colour of the solution and the bubbles of nitrous gas evolved from the copper. Let the plate remain in it long enough for the exposed lines to get slightly corroded, so that any minute portions of wax which might remain may be removed. The plate thus prepared is then placed in a trough separated into two divisions by a porous partition of plaster of Paris or earthenware,—the one division being filled with a saturated solution of sulphate of copper, and the other with a saline or acid solution. The plate to be engraved is placed in the division containing the solution of the sulphate of copper, and a plate of zinc of equal size is placed in the other division. A metallic connexion is then made between the copper and zinc plates, by means of the copper wire soldered to the former; and the voltaic circuit is thus completed. The apparatus is then left for some days. As the zinc dissolves, metallic copper is precipitated from the solution of the sulphate on the copper plate, wherever the varnish has been removed by the engraving tool. After the voltaic copper has been deposited in the lines engraved in the wax, the surface of it will be found to be more or less rough, according to the quickness of the action. To remedy this, rub the surface with a piece of smooth flint or pumice-stone with water. Then heat the plate, and wash off the wax ground with spirits of turpentine and a brush. The plate is now ready to be printed from at an ordinary press.

In this process, care must be taken that the surface of the copper in the lines be perfectly clean, as otherwise the deposited copper will not adhere with any force, but is easily detached when the wax is removed. It is in order to ensure this perfect cleanness of the copper, that it is immersed in dilute nitric acid. Another cause of imperfect adhesion of the deposited copper, which Mr. Spencer has pointed out, is the presence of a minute portion of some other metal, such as lead, which, by being precipitated before the copper, forms a thin film, which prevents the adhesion of the subsequently deposited copper. This circumstance may, however, be turned to advantage in some of the other applications of Mr. Spencer's process, where it is desirable to prevent the adhesion of the deposited copper.

In copying a coin or medal, Mr. Spencer describes two methods: the one is by depositing voltaic copper on the surface of the medal, and thus forming a mould, from which fac-similes of the original medal may readily be obtained by precipitating copper into it. The other is even more expeditious. Two pieces of clean milled sheet lead are taken, and the medal being placed between them, the whole is subjected to pressure in a screw press, and a complete mould of both sides is thus formed in the lead, showing the most delicate lines perfect (in reverse). Twenty, or even a hundred of these, may be so formed on a sheet of lead, and the copper deposited by the voltaic process with the greatest facility. Those portions of the surface of the lead which are between the moulds, may be varnished to prevent the deposition of the lead, or a whole sheet of voltaic copper having been deposited, the medals may afterwards be cut out. When copper is to be deposited on a copper mould or medal, care must be taken to prevent the metal deposited adhering. This Mr. Spencer effects by heating the medal, and rubbing a small portion of wax over it. This wax is then wiped off, a sufficient portion always remaining to prevent adhesion.

Enough has been said to enable any one to repeat and follow up Mr. Spencer's interesting experiments. The variations, modifications, and adaptations of them are endless, and many new ones will naturally suggest themselves to every scientific reader; and for their gratification, the medals produced by this process, and forwarded to us by Mr. Spencer, will be left with our publisher for some days, and open to inspection.

NEW SYSTEM OF INLAND TRANSPORT.

An experiment has just been made on the Forth and Clyde Canal, in Scotland, which seems likely to be followed by very important consequences, in a scientific as well as commercial view, and to affect seriously the relative value of property in canals and railways. It is well known, that there is a system of canal navigation practised on some canals in Scotland, in which light iron vessels, capable of carrying from 60 to 100 passengers, are towed along by a couple of horses, at a rate of ten miles an hour; and this is effected by what is called riding on the wave. This new system of wave navigation, the theory of which has been fully explained in the Reports of the meetings of the British Association, given annually in the *Athenæum*, has hitherto been limited in its use by the speed of horses, and been thrown back into comparative obscurity by the brilliant feats of the locomotive engine, whirling its ponderous burden along the iron railway with the speed of the winds. The experiment, however, to which we now allude, shows that the same mighty machine is capable of performing feats equally astonishing in water as in land-carriage. *A locomotive engine, running along the banks of the canal, drew a boat, loaded with sixty or seventy passengers, at a rate of more than nineteen miles an hour!* and this speed was not exceeded, only because the engine is an old-fashioned coal-engine, whose maximum speed, without any load, does not exceed twenty miles an hour; so that there is every reason to infer that, with an engine of the usual construction employed on railways, thirty, forty, or fifty miles an hour will become as practicable on a canal as on a railway. Thus, the wave theory, which was formerly a beautiful speculation of science, becomes the basis of a new system of inland water transport, and abstract science receives new illustrations from the practical application of its principles. The experiments to which we refer, were performed in the presence of a number of men of science, and gentlemen interested in the improvement of canals and navigation, under the direction of Mr. Macneil.

The predictions of science never received more perfect accomplishment, or more beautiful illustration, than on this occasion. It is well known to those who have studied what has been written on this subject, that the wave of the Forth and Clyde canal, from its great depth, travels at the rate of about eleven or twelve miles an hour, and that, consequently, in order to "ride on the wave," it would be necessary to draw the boat at fourteen or fifteen miles an hour—a speed hitherto impracticable, because above the available speed of horses; but it had been confidently predicted, that at these high velocities, the violent surges usual at velocities of eight or nine miles an hour would wholly disappear, and the vessel ride the summit of a smooth undulating wave, exciting comparatively little commotion in the waters of the canal. Two of the experiments performed set this truth in a remarkable light.—Experiment No. 3 being performed with an ill-shaped passage-boat, which the engine had not power to drag "over the wave," and Experiment No. 1, with a boat suited to higher velocities. Now, it happened as predicted, that the boat moved at a less velocity than that of the wave, raised a high and powerful wave at the bow, which overspread the banks of the canal, and threw up behind it a foaming and most injurious surge; while, on the other hand, the vessel which moved at the higher velocity rode smooth and even on the top of the placid and gentle wave, leaving behind it no commotion but the sudden collapse of the parted waters. These experiments are as follows:

EXPERIMENT I.—A passage boat filled with passengers, drawn by the Locomotive Engine, passed over

Yards.	Seconds.	
110	12.4	Being a velocity of above 19 miles an hour, riding the wave, with very slight commotion of the water.
220	24.5	
330	36.8	
440	49.2	
550	61.8	

EXPERIMENT III.—A passage boat, containing passengers and baggage, but unsuited to high velocities, drawn by the Locomotive Engine, passed over

Yards.	Seconds.	
110	24.2	Being a velocity of about 7 miles an hour only, with a large wave raised up at the bow and rolling over the bank, and an after surge tearing along the side, the boat being behind the wave.
220	63.0	
330	96.2	
440	127.8	
550	158.8	
660	190.8	
770	221.8	

Besides these experiments, there were others highly interesting in a practical view. A large fleet, consisting of three schooners, three sloops, two canal traders, and one small boat, forming a gross weight of about 800 tons, were dragged along the canal simultaneously, with no other force than the simple adhesion of the wheel of the carriage to the surface of the rail. In another experiment, a train of five boats, capable of carrying 400 to 500 passengers, was taken along at the rate of fifteen miles an hour.

The results of the day's experiments appear to us most promising: phenomena in the motion of fluids, and of vessels on the water, hitherto unseen, will be brought to light, and applications of mechanical power and mercantile resources, hitherto unheard of, will be called forth.

SULTAN MAHMOUD'S LAST APPEARANCE IN PUBLIC.

BY PRINCE PUCKLER MUSKAU.

THE serious illness by which the Sultan was attacked, in the first week after my arrival in Constantinople, prevented my obtaining the audience promised me; but I was indebted to a favourable accident for an opportunity of observing him pretty closely, and for a tolerably long time.

I was rowing one day on the channel of the brilliant Bosphorus, on the blue mirror of whose waters were reflected innumerable mosques, and palaces, and minarets, gardens and villas, wooded hills and dark cypress-shaded cemeteries, and the swarm of gondolas covering its bosom, when the sound of cannon from the vessels and the forts announced the approach of the superbly decorated barge of the Sultan. I made all possible haste to gain the Asiatic shore, where some troops drawn up round a mosque, and a small number of spectators, pointed out the spot selected by the Sultan for the performance of his devotional duties. I had only landed a few minutes, and had obtained, through the politeness of a Turkish officer, a place close to the steps of the mosque, when the swiftly-rowed bark shot past like an arrow. Little was at that time known of the nature of the dangerous malady which terminated so quickly the career of Mahmoud, and I had pictured to myself a robust, active, stately-looking man. My surprise was therefore great, on beholding a feeble, emaciated figure, with a countenance noble indeed, but bearing already the stamp of incurable disease. Mildness and benevolence shone in the large speaking eye, which, like the rest of the features announced too plainly the near approach of death, and, regardless of external objects, seemed to look only within. On a heap of red velvet cushions, piled up in the bottom of the gondola, beneath a gilded canopy, lay this image of departed greatness—a melancholy contrast to the Herculean forms of the rowers, whose fine athletic proportions were visible through the transparent silk shirts which formed the only covering of the upper parts of their bodies.

The sick man attempted to rise, but sunk back exhausted, and two attendants springing towards him, rather carried, than led him up the steps. A faint smile hovered over the features of the Sultan as he spoke a few words to those who surrounded him, but the marks of suffering on his fine face, which, the better to conceal, was, according to the custom here, covered with red and white paint, contrasting strongly with a short raven-black beard, betrayed how soon it must be forsaken by the spirit which still animated it. I felt so shocked at this melancholy sight, and at the painful reflection, that all who devote their lives to the cause of humanity, and to the realization of one grand idea, are sure to become its martyrs, that I completely forgot where I was, and neither took off my hat nor removed my glass from my eye when the Sultan passed quite close to me. This apparent rudeness, disagreeably remarkable amidst the reverential salutations of the rest of the spectators, I afterwards found had given offence, as it naturally might: but the sovereign, had he understood the cause, must have considered it as the most flattering compliment I could pay him; for it is long, indeed, since the sight of a royal personage could so completely absorb me. When the Sultan again passed me, on his return, I did not, of course, neglect to make amends as well as I could for my transgression, by uncovering my head as long, and bowing as low as possible, but my previous absence

of mind was, nevertheless, the truest mark of respect. On leaving the mosque, he descended the steps slowly and painfully, notwithstanding all the support he received, and stood some time at the bottom to recover himself before entering a carriage which was waiting to receive him. During this time he appeared to contemplate the assembled crowd with more attention than formerly, and perceiving a woman holding up a petition, unnoticed by any one else, he made a sign to have it taken from her and put into the carriage. He then seemed to express some fear that the nearest of the spectators, amongst whom were several ladies, would be injured by the unruly horses, and motioned them to stand up on a raised place behind them. I had all this time been contemplating, with the most earnest attention, the interesting physiognomy before me, and thought I could discover in it great susceptibility for both pain and pleasure—more thoughtfulness than rigid firmness of will—goodness, candour, and a tendency to melancholy.

This was Mahmoud's last appearance before the world, and his last actions, though of no great importance, were indicative of a benevolent and pious spirit. History will assuredly do him justice, and accord him a place among the most influential men of his time, and the most distinguished rulers of his dynasty.

The First Appearance in Public of the new Sultan.

The death of Sultan Mahmoud took place, according to the official report, on Monday, the 1st of July; but it was generally said, on good authority, that this event occurred on the evening of the Friday before, and was kept secret, from fear of some popular disturbance, the dead man in the meantime not only performing vicariously all the functions of sovereignty, but even smoking in his hours of recreation the usual number of pipes. Be that as it may, it was not till the Monday that the new Sultan Abd-al-Messind was proclaimed amidst the firing of cannon, and without even as much remembrance of his predecessor as is contained in "Le roi est mort—Vive le roi!" Eight days afterwards, and before the ceremony of girding on the sword (equivalent to our coronation) had taken place, came the news of the great defeat in Syria, and of the desertion of the whole fleet,—a melancholy commencement of a new reign. In Constantinople, however, as in the time of the Greek Empire, a general apathy prevailed as to all external events; and the only subject that appeared to excite any interest was the question of the probability of another revolution in the costume. The only remark made on any of the late disasters was, "Mashallah—it is the will of God;" after all, perhaps, the best thing one can say when one can do nothing.

When the ceremony above alluded to took place, it appeared that the tasteless demi-European costume introduced by the late Sultan was to be retained, but the extraordinary tranquillity of the immense numbers of people assembled on this occasion, who refrained from committing the smallest excess or offering the slightest affront to any Christian present, afforded a better proof of the effect of his exertions and of the deep root which the liberal ideas introduced by him have taken in the minds of the Turkish people.

The corps diplomatique, all powerful as it has become, was, notwithstanding, excluded from witnessing the ceremony, and compelled to remain without the mosque, among ordinary spectators, with no other distinction than a tent, appointed for their use by the government,—the said tent being not only deficient in the covering of carpets usual in the East, but not having been even swept out, and so full of stones and dirt that the elegant dresses and thin shoes of the ladies suffered grievously. No pacha or minister of the Porte was present to do the honours, but merely a subordinate officer, denominated Tahir Bey; and when the young Sultan, sitting on horseback as stiff as the stone statue in Don Giovanni, rode past, he did not so much as bestow upon the ambassadors a glance of his royal eye, though they were dressed out in all possible finery, and decorated with ribbons and orders without number. The effect of the stately splendour of these distinguished personages was indeed sadly marred by the crowding in of people in ordinary dresses, and even liveries, as well as by the dirty floor and the few mean chairs and sofas with which the tent was furnished.

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On the whole, it was hardly possible to imagine anything less imposing than the whole affair. The procession was opened, ominously enough, by a misshapen dwarf; the cavalry which followed resembled ill-dressed and disorderly European troops; and the led horses of the Sultan, adorned with plumes of feathers and trappings embroidered with gold, looked less like steeds of Arab breed than cart-horses in masquerade. The pashas, wearing blue frock-coats and the simple fez, looked like so many soldiers in foraging caps, and the Sultan himself was only distinguished by a short mantle of common cloth, with some diamonds on the collar, and a diamond agraife in his fez. The dress of the numerous body of attendants was detestable, and the colour seemed to belong more properly to the apothecary's shop than the court. The personal appearance of the young sovereign was by no means so unfavourable as I had been led to expect; his features bear some resemblance to those of his father; but the only persons who made a good figure on the occasion, were the Ulemas, who wore their old picturesque costume, with its long flowing robes and green and gold turbans.

I afterwards followed the procession through the streets of Constantinople, where every house and every booth was crowded with spectators; and where I had an opportunity of seeing Turkish ladies by thousands, since they were not rigid in keeping down their veils. I was surprised to find so few among them with any pretensions to beauty. The jealousy of the men perhaps induced them to conceal such as were handsome. I afterwards witnessed a really beautiful spectacle, in the return of the Sultan by water, from the magnificent bridge, which is one of the finest of the monuments for which Constantinople has to thank the deceased Mahmoud—and I closed a day of sight-seeing, by climbing the tower of the Seraskiers, whence the entire panorama of the city and its environs is visible—certainly one of the most splendid prospects the world can afford.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

THE Report of the architects, Sir Robert Smirke, Mr. Jos. Gwilt, and Mr. Hardwick, appointed by the Gresham Committee to examine the designs submitted for the Royal Exchange, has been made, and in conformity with it, the first prize has been awarded to Mr. Grelletier, the second to M. Chateaufort and Mr. Mee, and the third to Mr. S. Smirke. The arbitrators, however, observe that they do not consider that any of the designs are practicable, advisable, or capable of being made desirable edifices—that in the best, whole suites of apartments are placed in upper stories without adequate support—that passages are shown without the necessary light—that chimneys are placed in situations from which flues could not be carried up—that many rooms are without chimneys at all—and that in most, if not all, there are manifest errors in construction. These observations have given rise to considerable discussion—and a still more violent outcry has been raised against the subsequent decision of the Gresham Committee—that Sir R. Smirke, Mr. Gwilt, and Mr. Hardwick “do take the three plans selected by them into consideration, and prepare a plan and specification, such as in their judgment should be carried into execution.” We are not at all inclined to concur in the censure of the arbitrators for the observations which we have briefly but substantially quoted—it was their especial duty to apprise their employers of such valid objections; but we do think that the competitors have some reason to complain of the Gresham Committee. The whole proceedings, indeed, from first to last, have been confused, and, in some instances, obscure and purposeless, except to awaken a suspicion which we believe to be unjust. The instructions were manifestly vague and insufficient, so much so as to lead to a correspondence between the Committee and the Architectural Society (see ante, p. 355),—then the arbitrators were instructed to select the *five* best designs, although premiums have been awarded to only *three*,—and lastly, without allowing the prizemen an opportunity of competing once again amongst themselves, the Committee have thrown them all overboard with contempt, and given this great national work to the arbitrators,—a very questionable proceeding, it must be admitted, and open to great and manifest abuse. These objections are obvious, but “a cunning rogue”

of our acquaintance suggests another. “It was fairly (he says) to have been inferred that the Gresham Committee, following the example of the Committee on the Nelson Testimonial, would itself have decided on the relative merits of the designs; and the subsequent appointment of gentlemen really competent to form an opinion was a great hardship. Hitherto it has been quite sufficient for public competitors, to deliver in a fine façade, with a plan indicating, rather than setting forth, ‘the whereabouts’ of the several great apartments; and the parties never dreamed of being questioned respecting such ‘base mechanical’ matters as supports, lights, chimneys, and construction.” However, out of evil comes good. Though public faith may be shaken in the presumed advantages to be derived from competition, through these strange and repeated failures; yet every one of them directs attention to some weak point to be guarded against in future. In one instance, the judges were notoriously incompetent; in another, the instructions were obviously defective; in some, the conditions have been strictly enforced; in others, largely and loosely interpreted. Now, these errors suggest at once their remedy. Let the instructions for the future be drawn up by a professional man, the conditions strictly abided by, and the arbitrators, as in this instance, men of high character and known ability. The competitors will, perhaps, and in consequence, be less numerous; but such as do contend, will take care that their rooms have chimneys, their passages have light, and that their principal apartments rest on such old-fashioned foundations as brick and mortar or stone walls.

At the last meeting of the Academy of Sciences at Haarlem, our countrymen, Mr. Lyell, Mr. Babbage, and Mr. Murchison, were elected members.

During the pressure of business connected with the British Association, we omitted to notice the arrival in this country, of Mr. G. T. Vigne, after an absence of upwards of five years, chiefly spent in India, Kashmir, &c. We learn from the *Bombay Gazette*, that this traveller has had the good fortune to penetrate into Little Tibet and to Iskardoh, where, we believe, no European has in modern times preceded him; has visited the ‘Altars of Alexander,’ on an eminence overhanging the Sutlej, a tributary to the Indus, and has brought away with him a portfolio rich in sketches of scenery, and portraits of eminent men, as Runjit Singh, Dost Mohammed Khan, the Shah of Little Tibet, &c., and a beautiful panorama of the valley of Kashmir, and of the city of Kábul.

We have also the pleasure to announce the arrival in this country, of Mr. A. G. Glascock, R.N., who during the last two years has been travelling, chiefly in company with Mr. Consul Brant, in Armenia and Turkish Kurdistan, and has had an opportunity of collecting much geographical information respecting that little known country. In the course of their journey, as we are informed, the party examined the valley of the Murád Sâ, or Eastern Euphrates, made a trigonometric survey of the lake of Vau; ascended the Supan Dagh, which reaches an elevation of upwards of 9,000 feet above the sea, and which, according to Armenian tradition, was the resting-place of Noah's Ark; and were enabled to complete a very fine map of a large portion of the neighbouring districts. Mr. Glascock was also, we believe, to have accompanied Mr. Pashley in his travels in Crete, in 1836, but was prevented by illness, which is much to be regretted, as we should probably have been spared the copy of a bad French map, which now disfigures an otherwise beautiful work.

There has been a grand ceremonial at St. Petersburg to commemorate the opening of the Central Observatory at Pultova. In 1833, the Russian government formed the project of erecting, in the environs of the capital, an observatory, which should be superior to all then existing. The hill of Pultova, the most elevated point of a chain of heights, enclosing on the south the vast basin of the Neva, was chosen for the site of the building. It is about 240 feet high, and covered with old trees planted by Peter the Great, forming part of what was once a park, where the traces of many regular avenues are still to be seen. According to a tradition, preserved among the inhabitants of the little village of Pultova, which stretches at its foot, Peter inhabited for some time a small building on the side of this hill, in order to overlook the construction of the great roads which

were to lead through the forests and across the marshes of the plain to the new capital on the banks of the Neva. A heap of stones is still to be seen, known under the name of the Observatory of Peter the Great. The area assigned to the observatory embraces an extent of upwards of fifty acres; the height at which it is built raises it above the fogs by which the plain is often covered, and it is protected from the dust, caused by carriages on the high road, by the thickets of the ancient park. It is also proposed to enclose it on the south by thick hedges and plantations, to intercept any dust which might be driven by the wind in that direction; and orders have been issued, that no building shall be erected on this side at less than the distance of one *verst* from the enclosure of the observatory. The erection of the building has occupied five years. The Observatory, properly so called, is about 220 feet long, and is already furnished with a superb collection of instruments; and as it is to be devoted entirely to the advancement of astronomy, there is reason to hope for results worthy of the reputation of the learned men attached to it, and of the superior advantages it will enjoy.

We learn from Florence that an association of noblemen and others who take interest in the literature of their country, as Gino Capponi, Ginori, Rinnucini, &c., has been formed to encourage the publication of the Reports of the Ambassadors of Venice to their senate, during the 16th and following centuries. It appears that, by a decree of the Great Council of State, bearing date 24th July 1296, each ambassador was bound to render to the government a full report of the principal events connected with his embassy. It will be readily imagined that a collection of these documents must afford a rich fund for the historian. The editor selected is Signor Eugenio Alberi, and it is proposed to divide the work into three parts: the 1st, to consist of reports from all the European states with the exception of Italy; 2nd, of the relations of the republic with the several states of Italy; 3rd, reports from the various embassies spread throughout Asia and Africa.

It has excited some surprise that, after the eager and natural curiosity of the public respecting the discovery of M. Daguerre while it yet remained a secret, so little interest should now be taken in the subject. The truth is, that the public were led to believe that the process was so extremely simple that once known it could be practised without difficulty—so simple indeed that M. Daguerre could not be protected by patent rights, and therefore the French government consented to grant him an annuity. Whereas, without meaning in any way to undervalue the discovery or its important consequences, it now turns out that the process is very delicate and complicated, requiring great skill and care in the manipulator; and so easily can M. Daguerre protect his interests, that he has had a patent taken out in England, in the name of Mr. Miles Berry, of Chancery Lane, not only for the manufacture of the Daguerreotype, but for the use of the instrument. How far such a proceeding was contemplated by the French government—how far it can be justified by the letter of the agreement—how far such a patent can, under the circumstances, be maintained, we must leave others to determine—we merely state as a fact what has been much and generally disbelieved. Persons indeed, to whom M. Daguerre was known, and who had read the trumpeting in the foreign journals of the liberality of the French government in making this discovery public for the benefit of the civilized world, could not be persuaded that he was a party to such a proceeding, and therefore addressed a letter to him on the subject—but his answer, which we now publish, is conclusive:

18th Oct. 1839.

Sir,—In answer to your letter of the 4th instant, respecting the process of the Daguerreotype and the patent obtained in England for the same in the name of Mr. Miles Berry, Chancery Lane, previous to any exhibition thereof in France, I beg to state that it is with my full concurrence that the patent has been so obtained, and that Mr. Miles Berry has full authority to act as he thinks fit under proper legal advice.

I would add that if you will take the trouble to read attentively the articles of the agreement between me and the French government, you will see that the process has been sold, not to the civilized world, but to the Government of France for the benefit of my fellow countrymen.

I thank you for your good wishes and flattering letter, and with esteem for your high talent as an artist, and desire to have good-will and assistance in England as well as in France, I remain, Sir, your obedient servant, (signed,) DAGUERRE.

It is a curious fact, and further illustrative of this extraordinary proceeding, that Daguerreotypes, which cost from 20*l.* to 25*l.*, have been sent direct to this country by manufacturers who profess to pay a commission to M. Daguerre himself; and yet, though so sold and sent by his own agents, and to his own profit, the parties purchasing must not even use them if these patent rights can be sustained. Mr. Cooper, indeed, at the Polytechnic Institution, has thought it advisable to protect himself by obtaining the sanction of the patentee, by whom Mr. St. Croix, at the Adelaide Gallery, was for a time stopped; though, under advice, he has now resumed his exhibition.

DIORAMA, REGENT'S PARK.

This Establishment will be SHORTLY CLOSED for the Season.—The Pictures now exhibiting represent the CORONATION of HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA, in Westminster Abbey, and the INTERIOR of the CHURCH of SANTA CROCE, at Florence, with all the effects of Light and Shade from Noon till Midnight. Both Paintings are by LE CHEVALIER BOYTON.—Open from Ten till Four.

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MISCELLANEA

Deluges and Earthquakes in China.—M. Edward Biot has recently commenced a series of memoirs which are intended to give a history of the deluges, earthquakes, and alterations of the surface of the soil in China, as contained in ancient Chinese works. Two of these memoirs have been read to the French Academy of Sciences, in the first of which are collected the traditions concerning deluges. Of the two principal deluges which have devastated that country, the one is called that of Yao, and is dated in the twenty-fourth century before our era, and the other, long prior to it, is ascribed to the thirty-fifth century before the Christian era, in the time of Fo-hy, a chief from the eastern mountains of Tibet, who drove the natives of China before him. The books which mention these catastrophes do not attribute them to an overabundance of rain, or any other definite physical cause; but M. E. Biot is led to conclude, from geological data, 1*st*, that interior seas must formerly have existed in the desert of Cobi, and have been since emptied by a branch of the Yellow River, and through the gorge of Tsy-chy; 2*nd*, that the deluge of Yao was occasioned by the simultaneous rising of two great ranges of mountains to be found on the maps; the first having turned the course of the Yellow River, and the second that of the great Kiang, covering Central China with lakes and marshes, and modifying the courses of rivers. In the second memoir is a statement relating to earthquakes, liftings up of the soil, &c., according to the Chinese annals, which remarkably confirm the facts contained in the first. The earthquakes appear to have been as terrible in their results as those of South America, and accompanied by the same dull noises, and in fact are identical in character with those observed by M. Bousingault.

Artesian Well at Grenelle.—At a late sitting of the Academy of Sciences, M. Arago stated that he had that morning been making some thermometrical experiments at the Artesian well at Grenelle, in order to ascertain the temperature at the depth which had already been attained, viz., 483 metres, or 1584 feet. When the workmen had reached 460 metres the chalk was of a green colour, indicating the proximity of water. Since then the chalk had become mixed with clay, and of a dark colour, a still stronger indication that the sheet of water which it is intended to meet is near. M. Arago used the thermometer of M. Walferdin, and after having taken all the necessary precautions in order that the pressure, which at such a depth is equal to fifty atmospheres, might not injure the bulb, six thermometers of the same kind were successively let down to a depth of 481 metres, care having been taken not to lower them until thirty-six hours had elapsed since the boring, in order that the heat which this work might have communicated should have subsided. The thermometers were left in the well for thirty-six

hours. The heat at this depth was 27° of Reaumur, or 92° of Fahrenheit, being about twenty-three metres for each degree of temperature. M. Arago expressed a hope that no water might be found for 100 metres more, as in that case there would be a permanent hot spring at the very gates of Paris.—*Mechanics' Magazine.*

Corsica.—Some particulars concerning Corsica have been transmitted to the French Academy of Sciences, by M. Robiquet, a civil engineer, who resided in that island for five years, during which he collected the following facts. From 1832 to 1836, 338 individuals were killed, and 448 received serious wounds, out of a population of 200,000. Seventieths of those killed, and four-tenths of those wounded, received their injuries from fire-arms. The greater number of the homicides took place in December, January, and February: owing, probably, to the want of employment, agriculture affording full occupation during the rest of the year.

Artificial Granite Road.—A short time since a new pathway was laid down in that part of Bird Cage-walk near Storey's Gate. The material composing the pathway is a new invention, styled—"artificial, granite," and a "mineral, animal, and vegetable combination." The process adopted in laying it down is similar to that of the asphalt, the composition being poured out boiling hot upon the loose gravel, with which it amalgamates. A few minutes suffice to make the composition quite cold, and as hard as the hardest stone. The appearance of that part of the pathway already finished is that of a finely polished and black block of marble. It is said to be impervious to wet, will not be affected by the sun like the asphalt, and its durability is even greater than marble itself, which has been proved from the fact that a rough piece of marble or granite can be rubbed perfectly smooth on a block of this composition without apparently wearing the latter. Its hardness may be judged from the following test:—a block about five feet by three, and two inches in thickness, was struck for several minutes with heavy sledge hammers by the workmen, and it failed to break: whereas marble, granite, or any other stone, would have flown to pieces. This composition is the invention of M. d'Harcourt, a French gentleman, who is laying down the above-mentioned pathway by order of the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, who intend, should the experiment succeed, to have the whole length of Bird Cage-walk done in a similar manner, as also the Parade in front of the new palace.—*Engineers' and Surveyors' Magazine.*

Gum Elastic.—In the Report of the Committee on the late exhibition of Domestic Manufactures, held at the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, it is observed "these articles (gum elastic goods) manufactured at Roxbury near Boston, recommend themselves strongly to favourable notice. They consist of gum elastic attenuated into thin sheets, and these sheets, in some specimens, cemented apparently by simple pressure to the printed surface of calicoes, chintzes, engravings, maps, &c. and in others made themselves the ground upon which various coloured patterns are imprinted. The peculiar merit of these goods is their retaining, in a perfect degree, all the original qualities of the gum elastic; its elasticity, its toughness, freedom from odour, and absence of all adhesiveness: the latter feature giving to this manufacture a decided superiority over any other preparation of the gum hitherto attempted. The attention of the Committee was particularly attracted to the beauty and evenness of texture of a shawl, consisting wholly of the gum elastic, upon which a very tasteful pattern has been imprinted.

Dye-wood.—A method of extracting the colouring matter from wood has been lately employed by a M. Besseyre with much success. He first reduces the woods to very small divisions, and then immediately places them in a closed vessel exposed to a current of steam. When the whole has attained 80 degrees of heat, it is uncovered, and watered with several pints of cold water. By means of a tap below, the condensed liquid is drawn off, and thrown back upon the chips, and this operation is repeated until the dye has acquired sufficient strength; it is then subjected to evaporation over an open fire, and subsequently in a sand bath, and the extract becomes a mass, which is soluble in warm water.

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